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Saudis ban Thai workers after killings

Royal Thai embassy expresses regret

RIYADH, Feb. 3, (Agencies): Saudi Arabia took its angry reaction to the murder of three of its diplomats in Thailand a step further by stopping the entry of Thai workers, a newspaper reported today.

Deputy Interior Minister Prince Ahmed Bin Abdul Aziz was quoted in the Saudi daily Al Jazira as saying that "the necessary measures for halting the arrivals of labour from Thailand were taken."

He described the murders as "a horrendous matter that has shocked and pained us all," adding that "King Fahd is deeply concerned about his sons."

There was no immediate first-hand confirmation of Prince Ahmed's statements.

The Royal Thai embassy said it had not been officially informed of the visa ban, but it issued a statement expressing "profound sorrow" over the assassinations and saying that painful as it is, the said incident would not adversely affect the ties of friendship between Thailand and Saudi Arabia.

"The Royal Thai embassy is keen to state that the incident will not harm the ties of friendship existing between the two countries," the statement said.

It said the authorities in Bangkok were undertaking serious measures to uncover the culprits and would present the assassins for trial once uncovered.

It offered condolences to the families of the deceased.

King Fahd received messages of condolences and condemnation of assassinations from King Hussein of Jordan and Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain.

The coffins with the bodies of the three Saudi diplomats were flown in last night aboard a special Saudi jet ordered by the king. Later they were taken to their hometowns around the kingdom where Saudi princes led the funeral prayers.

The deputy governor of Riyadh, Prince Sattam Bin Abdul Aziz, who led an official delegation to the airport told reporters, "these are three martyrs who died for their religion and homeland... at the hands of evil."

They have been identified as second secretary and consular head Abdullah Abdul-Rahman Al Basri, 32, consular officer Fahd Abdullah Al Bahi, 35 and telex operator Ahmed Abdullah Al Saif, 26. One of the three was reported to have a pregnant wife.

Riyadh has already summoned the Thai ambassador to deliver a protest, warning that it will be forced to close its embassy in Bangkok if the Thai authorities cannot track down the assassins.

Two Thais who had been convicted for murder and rape and were awaiting execution, were beheaded after this Friday's



Bodies of Saudis killed in Bangkok arrive in Riyadh

(Continued on Page 9)

NEWSWATCH

Sri Lanka
ON the occasion of National Day of Sri Lanka, Arab Times has brought out a 6-page (11-16) supplement today.

Filipino Digest
THE Filipino Digest, which normally appears every Sunday, will be appearing tomorrow, Feb. 5. Do not forget to buy your copy!

Front dissolved
BUCHAREST, Feb. 3, (Reuters): The 145-member council of the National Salvation Front, Romania's provisional Parliament, voted to dissolve itself today to open the way for a new multi-party body to take over.

Cazimir Ionescu, the council's vice-president, told a news conference the decision would not affect the front-appointed government, which would continue to rule until elections in May.

Jaffer dies
ISLAMABAD, Feb. 3, (Kuma): Ahmed E.H. Jaffer, a veteran parliamentarian and a close associate of founder of Pakistan Mohammed Ali Jinnah, died in a military hospital in Rawalpindi this morning.

His body was flown to Karachi for burial. Jaffer was a leading business magnate of Pakistan and had also set up his business houses in the Arab Gulf states.

Gold aboard jet
KATMANDU, Feb. 3, (UPI): Nearly 33 pounds (15 kg) of gold was found unclaimed aboard a Hong Kong Dragon Air aircraft soon after it landed today in the Nepalese capital from the island, customs officials at Katmandu airport said.

Artificial fur cap
NEW DELHI, Feb. 3, (UPI): Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh has given up wearing authentic lambskin caps and switched to those made of artificial material following appeals from animal rights activists, the Press Trust of India said today.

The Indian prime minister, in a letter to the chairperson of 'Beauties Against Cruelty,' a charitable trust for animal rights, said he has stopped using fur caps, the news agency reported.

Indo-Nepal talks
KATMANDU, Feb. 3, (UPI): India and Nepal, enjoying a warming of relations under newly elected Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh, have set a date for their first formal talks since the death of his predecessor Rajiv Gandhi, officials said today.

The talks, aimed primarily at ending Indian sanctions on trade and transit that have contributed to serious economic problems in Nepal, will be held for two days beginning Feb. 13 in New Delhi, the Nepalese Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Weather

CLOUDY to partly cloudy weather with light north easterly wind changes gradually to moderate southeasterly wind and a slight chance for rain.

State of sea: Moderate to rough

High water: 6:30 am, 5:24 pm

Low water: 12:00 pm, 11:41 noon

Sunrise: 6:36 am

Sunset: 5:28 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 16°C 61°F

Ahmad: 14°C 57°F

Falaka: 15°C 59°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 8°C 46°F

Ahmad: 11°C 52°F

Falaka: 10°C 50°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 16°C 61°F

Ahmad: 13°C 55°F

Falaka: 14°C 57°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 87 per cent

Ahmad: 94 per cent

Falaka: 95 per cent



A frightened Muslim man flees to a safer place in West Beirut, carrying his two small children with him. (Reuters wirephoto)

Protest strike shuts Srinagar

Pakistan to discuss situation

SRINAGAR, India, (Agencies): At least four people were killed yesterday in the Kashmir valley, including the first Hindu civilian, after an eight-day hull in violence, officials said.

Meanwhile, Pakistan will discuss the situation in Kashmir in two separate meetings.

The latest deaths raised to 76 the number of people killed, including Muslims and Indian troops, since the government ordered a crackdown Jan. 20 on the Muslim movement for secession of Kashmir region from northern Jammu-Kashmir state.

Kashmiri militants at first demanded union with Pakistan but recently have demanded a separate neutral nation that if formed would be sandwiched next to India, Pakistan and China.

New Delhi has been accusing neighbouring Pakistan of fomenting the trouble in Kashmir. Islamabad has been denying the charges but the people of Kashmir had a right to self-determination.

Last week's bitter trading of accusations culminated in increased Pakistani and Indian military activities near their border.

"The Indian people and army are prepared to give a befitting reply," if Islamabad wanted a confrontation, said Prime Minister V.P. Singh in Calcutta, UNI reported.

In Srinagar, the largest town in Kashmir, Hindu businessman Satish Kumar Tikku was shot and killed in the violence. Police sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Tikku was killed because the militants suspected him of being a police informer.

A government statement said militants and paramilitary federal troops exchanged gunfire in the old district of Srinagar, injuring two people. It also said two people who hurled a petrol bomb at a police bunker were arrested.

In the neighbouring town of Sopore, at least three people were killed when paramilitary police opened fire on a mob gathered in defiance of curfew restrictions early last morning, said police officials in Jammu, also speaking on condition of anonymity.

The government today lifted its

Shells rock Beirut

Aoun forces defect; 154 killed, 597 injured in fighting

BEIRUT, Feb. 3, (Agencies): Shells crashed into Beirut's Muslim and Christian sectors today, shattering a Vatican-brokered ceasefire between warring Christian forces only three hours after it went into effect.

Police said at least two people were killed and 11 wounded in the first burst of shelling at 4.15 pm (14.15 GMT). It targeted residential districts of Muslim West Beirut, outside the combat zone, and the capital's eastern sector.

That raised the overall toll to 154 killed and 597 wounded in the five-day showdown between renegade Gen. Michael Aoun's nearly 20,000 troops and the 6,000-strong

A police spokesman said shells fell on the Christian district of Ein Al Rummaneh, controlled by the Lebanese Forces, as well as the nearby army-held neighbourhood of Badaro in East Beirut.

The spokesman said shells also crashed along West Beirut's seaside boulevard and the districts of Ain Mreisseh, Qantari and Zokak Blatt at the rate of six per minute.

He said Aoun's gunners and Lebanese forces militiamen were involved, but it could not be determined who provoked the barrage.

Geagea, in an interview broadcast live by the Christian Voice of Lebanon radio, said his troops were respecting the ceasefire.

"My fighter's condition is excellent," Geagea said.

Aoun's command, in a statement broadcast by his Radio Lebanon said the general's positions were under shelling.

The barrage also shocked hundreds of Christian civilians who used the lull that prevailed after the ceasefire went into effect at 1.15 pm (11.15 GMT) to cross to the west.

The shelling, according to Associated Press photographer Ali Mohammed, did not target the mid-city museum crossing which links Beirut's two sectors.

"The sound of explosions scared off civilians who were crossing on foot to West Beirut, carrying bags of personal effects," he said.

"Many of them sought refuge behind sand barricades while others rushed toward West Beirut as Aoun's soldiers cooked their guns in preparation for a possible battle," Mohammed added.

The dead today included photographer George Samarejian, 45, who worked for the independent newspaper An Nahar when he was shot in the head while covering the clashes in East Beirut on Wednesday.

Samarejian, survived by a wife and two daughters, died at the American University Hospital in West Beirut, two days after brain surgery.

After five days of fighting, the Lebanese Forces control 50 per cent of the Christian enclave. At the start of the fighting each side controlled half.

The US State Department said it held Aoun responsible for the resumption of fighting in the Christian areas and reiterated its demands for him to step aside from power immediately.

Earlier today police said Aoun's forces stationed at Beirut's port and along half of Beirut's three-mile (five-km) dividing green line defected to Geagea's militia.

That stripped Aoun of the Beirut port and his only docks, although he still controls several kilometres of coastline. The lack of a port could disrupt his supply lines, but both sides are believed to have months of ammunition stockpiled.

Syria said today that Aoun was deserting Lebanon and appealed to East Beirutis to back President Elias Hrawi.

Lebanese Forces militia of Samir Geagea. The casualties included 20 killed and 75 wounded in West Beirut. Civilians who had emerged from dark, waterless bomb shelters to inspect property damage were caught unprotected by the barrage.

The ceasefire was called by the Vatican through Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente and Maronite Catholic patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, who have worked repeatedly to end the clashes.

"For the fourth time, we urge all parties to cease fire and put a final end to this bloody tragedy," Sfeir said in his appeal.

ANC to continue guerrilla attacks

SA implements changes



Mandela with wife Winnie. (Reuters wirephoto)

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 3, (Agencies): Long-silenced anti-apartheid activists began speaking out and some blacks celebrated today as the government implemented sweeping political changes announced by President F.W. de Klerk.

Reaction in black townships was subdued, with no celebrations in the largest black city, Soweto, home to 2.5 million people.

But about 8,000 people, including many elders and children, crammed into a stadium in Alexandra, a township of more than 100,000 people near Johannesburg, and chanted "Viva ANC" for the newly unbanned African National Congress while swaying to the rhythm of liberation songs.

The day before, De Klerk had legalised the ANC, the main guerrilla group fighting white rule, and lifted restrictions on 60 opposition groups and 374 individuals.

The African National Congress

Egyptian husband staged accident in tug-of-love battle

MIDDLETOWN, Connecticut, Feb. 3, (AP): An American woman believed that a bitter custody battle ended last summer when she was told that her husband and two children had died in a car accident in Egypt.

But now, five months later, US embassy officials and police in Middletown, Connecticut, say they believe Wendy Mousa's children are alive and her husband,

Gamal is living in the United States.

"It was an elaborate charade," said Cynthia Carroll, an aide to US Senator John Kerry, one of several people Wendy Mousa asked for help. "It's ridiculous. It really is."

Mrs. Mousa, 29, said her husband may have engineered a hoax to end the pressure she had been putting on him since their custody battle began 18 months ago.

Tomorrow!

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OIC condemns Indian atrocity

Pak Parliament to meet

(Continued from Page 1)

curfew for a planned 12 hours, but a strike called by the militants kept many shops closed, witnesses said.

The Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front called the strike by word of mouth last night and early today, Srinagar shopkeepers told local journalists.

Today's strike in Srinagar was to protest the Sopore deaths, shopkeepers told Kaiser Mirza, a local journalist. The curfew relaxation began at 5 am (2330 GMT Friday) and was scheduled to end at 5 pm.

Mirza said most shops did not open today morning when the curfew was lifted and the few shops that did open soon put down their shutters when owners learned of the strike call.

It was not immediately clear if the shops were closed fearing attacks by the militants or in sympathy with the separatist cause.

When curfew relaxations began a week ago, vegetable shops and grocery stores were crowded and streets were filled with people and traffic.

Today morning, small groups of men stood at the street corners but there was little traffic, Mirza said.

Meanwhile, the government did not enforce an order compelling reporters for the Associated Press and Agence France-Presse from Srinagar.

The reporters, Dilip Ganguly of the AP and Anil Penna of AFP, were the last two correspondents for foreign media in the city when they were ordered expelled by a Srinagar magistrate on the grounds their presence was "prejudicial to the security of the state."

Twelve people were shot and wounded yesterday in a gunbattle between police and Kashmiri protesters trying to march on the Indian consulate in Karachi, police said.

Kashmiri protest leaders said police fired tear-gas and gunshots at a peaceful rally of 5,000 people protesting at New Delhi's crack-down in Kashmir.

Police said some demonstrators armed with handguns attacked a traffic police kiosk and fired at two policemen, wounding them seriously.

Police opened fire after tear-gas failed to disperse the crowd which threw stones at police preventing them getting within 200 metres (yards) of the consulate. The demonstrators burned effigies of V.P. Singh.

The Pakistan government has invited heads of political parties represented in the Parliament and

provincial assemblies to a conference on Kashmir tomorrow, sources said today.

Convened under the direction of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, it would be held at the prime minister's house in Islamabad.

To be held in camera it would also be attended by senior officials of the Foreign and Defence ministries, who would give a comprehensive briefing to the participants on the latest situation in Kashmir.

There was no confirmed word as to who would preside over the meeting but informed sources said that Benazir was keen to chair provided her doctors allowed her to do so. Otherwise her mother, senior federal minister Begum Nusrat Bhutto, who is currently acting as prime minister, was most likely to chair the important meeting.

Benazir is currently at home in Karachi recovering from the birth of her second child by a Caesarean operation in a Karachi hospital on Jan 25.

Pakistan's President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has summoned a joint meeting of the Parliament on Feb 10, an official announcement said in Islamabad this afternoon.

Members of the Senate, the upper house of parliament, and National Assembly, the lower house, will debate the latest situation in Kashmir.

The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has accused New Delhi of using "blind repression" against Muslims in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

"The (Indian) police force ... did not flinch from using the most reprehensible methods and repression," said an OIC statement sent to Reuters in Cyprus.

The OIC appealed to the Indian government to settle the crisis peacefully.

"The general secretariat strongly denounces and condemns this blind repression ... and underlines the futility of these attempts to deny ... the legitimate aspirations of the population of Kashmir by force," OIC said.

Ghana executions

ACCRA, Feb 3, (Reuters): Ghana executed nine armed robbers by firing squad today, the national news agency reported.

The nine men had donned fake military uniforms to gain entry to homes and had killed some of their victims, who included businessmen, a bank manager and a naval officer, the Ghana News Agency (GNA) said.

Kashmiris flee from beatings

BAGH, Pakistan, Feb 3, (Reuters): The first refugees to reach Pakistan from Indian-controlled Kashmir said that they fled their homes to escape Indian beatings.

Nine Indian Muslims from a village near the ceasefire line that divides Indian from Pakistani Kashmir told how they and their families waded through deep snow at night to evade Indian patrols.

A total of 36 men, women and children made the dangerous journey and more are expected to follow, said a top official in Bagh, a small town about 30 km (20 miles) from the line.

"We were tortured by Indian authorities who accused us of being used for carrying arms," said 25-year-old Abdul Hamid.

"These people used to come to our homes and take us to the police and military posts. There they beat us."

There was no independent confirmation of their charges and only one man, Latif Shah, could show a healing gash on one hand as evidence of ill treatment.

"They took me to a military post and they beat me with a bamboo stick," he said. "They were accusing me of helping the freedom-fighters."

Huddled under quilts in a draughty religious school in Bagh, Hamid and his fellow villagers said their troubles began about three months ago as a Muslim rebellion flared in Indian Kashmir.

More than 60 people died in anti-government protests last week as India poured security forces into the Kashmir valley to try to stamp out the secessionist movement.

The refugees left their isolated mountain village, Azad Bara, separately 12 days ago.

Kashmir may erupt like a volcano, warns Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Feb 3, (Reuters): A Muslim separatist revolt has turned Kashmir into a volcano ready to erupt, the state's former chief minister said this week.

"We are sitting on a volcano, not knowing whether it will simmer down or blow up," said Farooq Abdullah, who resigned in anger when Delhi sent in a hardline governor two weeks ago to help quell the uprising in Jammu and Kashmir state.

Last week, more than 60 people were shot dead in

Kashmir's Himalayan valley, once a tourist haven, as Indian troops and militants demanding independence or secession to neighbouring Pakistan battled for supremacy.

"I must have failed my people somewhere. I must be responsible," said Abdullah, whose administration was widely accused of corruption and incompetence in the face of a mounting secessionist campaign.

Abdullah, twice chief minister of Kashmir, urged fresh elections in India's only Muslim-majority

state to counter the militant campaign.

"You have to create confidence, bring your pride down and say you made mistakes," he said in an interview. "Let the temperature come down and then hold free and fair elections."

Some Indian politicians said public opinion in Kashmir was alienated by rigged state elections in 1987. That poll brought Abdullah's National Conference Party to power in a coalition with the Congress Party of then prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said on Tuesday that Islamabad would not compromise in its stand that Kashmiris should be allowed to choose their future in a plebiscite.

gunmen in its Jammu and Kashmir state with arms and training. Pakistan denies the charges but the row has plunged relations to their lowest point since Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto took power in 1988.

"I spent two days in the forest with my wife," Hamid said. "We made it by midnight through the forests. Because the snow was falling they were not patrolling."

India accuses Pakistan of aiding

Another coup man arrested

MANILA, Feb 3, (UPI): Government troops today arrested another leader of the bloody December coup attempt that nearly toppled President Corazon Aquino, officials said.

Criminal Investigation Service chief Brig. Gen. Pantaleon Dumlaog said Navy Commander Proceso Malingag, 44, was arrested as he was driving his car through Manila. There had been a \$24,000 reward for information leading to his arrest.

Malingag is the fourth coup leader captured this month by Philippine authorities. On Jan 29, police arrested one of the rebels' top leaders, Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenita, who had a \$47,000 price on his head, but the instigator of the coup ex-army Col. Gregorio Honasan and his close aides are still at large.

Dumlaog said Malingag led mutinies in a raid on the armory of the logistics command where he was the operations chief at the height of the uprising. His immediate superior Commodore Domingo Calajate is one of the key coup participants still being hunted.

Malingag was driving his car on a busy street in Manila when he was intercepted by crack intelligence operatives, Dumlaog said. He did not resist arrest.

"We have been following him for sometime," Dumlaog said. "I guess today we were just lucky."

Malingag told reporters he was on his way to ask for money from his friends when he was arrested. He said his family has been ordered to vacate his quarters in suburban Fort Bonifacio and he needed funds to rent a new house.



Prolific painter

Sri Lankan painter Rex Morais puts the finishing touches on a 12 foot painting of the Hindu deity Ganesh. Although the diminutive Morais was born with a hunched back he has done more than 10,000 paintings. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gunmen spray bullets at prayers

ISLAMABAD, Feb 3, (KUNA): Unidentified gunmen sprayed bullets last night on people coming out of a mosque in Nawab Shah in Sind province after saying prayers, killing two of them and injuring six others.

After the firing, the gunmen, who were riding a motor cycle, sped away and could not be traced.

The incident, first of its kind in Pakistan, sent a shock-wave in the town situated in the interior of the troubled Sind province and its inhabitants today closed down all shops, and commercial and business centres.

Runcie starts first visit to Pakistan to promote 'understanding, goodwill'

ISLAMABAD, Feb 3, (AP): The Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie, arrived yesterday on his first visit to this predominantly Muslim country to promote "understanding and goodwill."

The spiritual leader of Anglicans worldwide bowed low to receive almost a dozen traditional heart-shaped garlands during a red-carpet welcoming ceremony at Islamabad international airport.

"It's the first time I've nearly been strangled by kindness," Runcie said during a

brief arrival address to representatives of Pakistan's minority Christian community.

"I believe religious minorities can enrich the life of any nation, and that mutual respect and tolerance between members of different faiths is essential to the well-being of international understanding and peace," he said.

"I hope my visit will promote such understanding and peace."

Runcie's host, the Church of Pakistan, is an interdenominational church represent-

ing 700,000 Anglicans, Lutherans, Presbyterians and Methodists.

Church of Pakistan Bishop Alexander Malik said "it's important for a small church like ours to have an international figure here like the archbishop. It demonstrates that we are part of the ecumenical council."

Runcie's week-long visit coincides with growing tensions between Pakistan's Muslims and India's Hindu majority.

Runcie said he wanted his visit to emphasize the need for dialogue between varying religions.

"We should be talking to each other, building bonds of friendship together, working together for human betterment," he said.

Runcie is to meet with Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, although he declined to elaborate on the agenda of the talks.

I am excited: Helen

8,000 rally in Alexandra



(Continued from Page 1)

gess said today it will not suspend guerrilla attacks in South Africa but conceded its military campaign was likely to receive a "lower profile" than in the past.

"We have always said that the notion of the ANC unilaterally abandoning armed struggle is out of the question," ANC information chief Pallo Jordan told reporters in Lusaka.

"Any ceasing of hostilities will have to be negotiated and will arise out of a mutually binding ceasefire," he said.

Jordan described the guerrilla campaign as part of the ANC's multi-pronged strategy to end the white-dominated South African government's apartheid system of racial separation.

"At particular times that aspect [armed struggle] has received a higher profile than others. I think one can expect that the context of the legalisation of the ANC, that probably other aspects of our multi-pronged strategy will receive a much higher profile than in the past," Jordan said.

The Alexandra rally originally had been scheduled to protest living conditions in the squatter township, and the protesters marched to the local council office and police station after the rally.

Two hundred blacks, mostly children, gathered two hours later for a perfunctory rally in a church in the largest black township outside Cape Town.

In the Natal provincial capital of Pietermaritzburg, 7,000 people gathered outside a cricket stadium to protest a visiting English team.

English captain Mike Gatting and Ali Bacher, general manager of the South African Cricket Union, walked through a 100-metre (yard) gauntlet of chanting protesters to collect a petition from the organisers.

As they walked back members of the crowd threw stones and soft drink cans at them, until volunteer marshals stopped the abuse. No injuries were reported.

De Klerk yesterday announced a moratorium on executions and ended most emergency restrictions on the press, while allowing police to retain control over photography and filming of political unrest.

Businessmen and sportsmen said they anticipated an easing of international sanctions and isolation of South Africa.

For most South Africans, there was no change in their lives after De Klerk's historic speech to Parliament.

But for some, such as 84-year-old Helen Joseph, everything about everyday life was changed.

"She had been officially 'banned,' thereby restricted to the Johannesburg area and prohibited from meeting with more than a few people at a time or making public appearances. Her first interview in 30 years appeared in the Star newspaper in Johannesburg."

"This is a wonderful day. I am very excited about my personal freedom since I am no longer a listed person," said the wheelchair-bound activist, an old friend of imprisoned black leader Nelson Mandela and the first white person ever placed under house arrest for anti-government activity.

"Above all I am excited about the return of all my friends and comrades and all the exiles who will be coming back home, all my comrades who will be released from jail," she was quoted as saying.

Positive steps

Madzizwi Mandela-Amuah, one of Nelson Mandela's four children, said on Friday the South African announcement of imminent release of her father was a positive step but would be meaningless unless apartheid was dismantled.

Speaking at a news conference at the University of Massachusetts, the 35-year-old student said she welcomed the changes in her homeland announced earlier in the day.

"Mr F.W. de Klerk's speech today is a positive one and significant in many respects. In my view it is a landmark development and marks the beginning of a new dawn. I welcome this development and hope soon a new South Africa emerges where colour is a non-issue," she said.

"But I must sound a note of caution here that the release of my father and the unbanning of ANC (African National Congress) will be meaningless unless it is accompanied by the total dismantling of apartheid and changes in the quality of life of all the oppressed people of South Africa."

Mandela, 71, has been jailed in South Africa since 1963. Mandela-Amuah said she had no plans to travel to South Africa for her father's release, chiefly because of the expense it would impose on her as a doctoral candidate in anthropology.

Sidelights

Crucial ANC meeting: Leaders of the African National Congress (ANC) met in Sweden today to regroup and plan strategy for a new era in South Africa after their decades of exile and imprisonment. Joined by the head of the South African Communist Party (SACP), the nationalist leaders were deciding their response and political programme after South African President F.W. de Klerk announced that bans on both organisations were lifted.

A statement issued on Friday in the name of ANC President Oliver Tambo, who is in a Stockholm rehabilitation clinic after a brain spasm last year, welcomed the lifting of the ban but said the measures did not go far enough.

National executive committee member Pallo Jordan told reporters in Lusaka today ANC would not halt its military campaign. He also ruled out an early rebasing to South Africa of the ANC headquarters in Zambia. (Reuters)

Activists urge US divestment: Though encouraged by political change in South Africa, American businesses are unlikely to alter investment policies towards the nation while US economic sanctions remain in force.

Anti-apartheid activists, some of whom are trustees to billions of dollars in assets, said flatly yesterday that the sanctions, banning many forms of investment by US companies, should be upheld and that divestment should continue.

Since 1984, 200 American companies have quit South Africa, in part because of political pressure from anti-apartheid shareholders and also due to the constraints of government-imposed economic sanctions. Friday's announcement by South African President F.W. de Klerk, who ended a 30-year-long ban on the African National Congress and said its leader, Nelson Mandela, would soon be released, could mark the beginning of a slow process of economic change.

"This might start a chain of events that could eventually lead to the repeal of economic sanctions," said one American businessman, whose company still operates there. "This is the best thing that has happened in a while."

Investors who have voted their shares to force firms to leave South Africa stressed there would be no change in their stance until black South Africans win full political rights. (Reuters)

Editors delighted by lifting of curbs: South African newspaper editors expressed a sense of liberation after President F.W. de Klerk lifted some emergency curbs on the media.

"Now I can spend time in journalism instead of in court," said Max de Preez, editor of the outspoken Afrikaans-language Vrye Weekblad (free weekly).

Harvey Tyson, editor of South Africa's biggest daily, the Star, said: "Within minutes of Mr De Klerk's announcement we removed our frontpage reminder to readers that the Star is being produced under the severest restrictions..."

"We substituted a panel under the heading 'De-censored,' telling readers that we no longer had to resort to devices, some of them probably illegal, to bring them the news."

In a major reformist policy speech to Parliament yesterday, De Klerk said emergency media regulations imposed in 1986 and tightened in June 1988 would be abolished.

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PEOPLE AND PLACES

SAN DIEGO: A San Diego company that advertises indoor greenhouses in several magazines, including one targeted at marijuana users, denied Friday it encourages the illegal cultivation of the drug.

Pyramex Industries Inc. It was reacting to news stories, including one by United Press International, reporting it had been named business of the year in manufacturing by the Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce.

The stories noted that the company's sole product is an indoor horticulture system advertised in several magazines, including the pro-marijuana High Times.

A statement by company spokesman Dan Stashkezi claimed the coverage was "irresponsible and highly biased." (UPI)

MOSCOW: Rock carvings depicting scenes from Bible hymns, which date back to 25 centuries before Christ, have been found in a remote corner of Soviet Asia in the Tien Shan mountains, Tass said Thursday.

The agency said the most impressive depicted a tree of life with a human figure and the sun and moon above. Others portrayed a bull, which symbolised the universe and the sun for many ancient peoples.

Alibek Akishev, an archaeologist from the Kazakh Academy of Sciences, said he thought the carvings were evidence that an Indo-European people once lived in southeastern Kazakhstan.

An expedition of ours examined his deserted region and discovered that it is a natural mountain passage from Europe and Central Asia to eastern Turkistan, China and India. An offshoot of the great silk road traversed here," Akishev said. (UPI)

LONDON: A spectacular centennial production of the Russian opera "Prince Igor" won cheers at the Royal Opera House on Thursday night for everyone involved — except Romanian producer Andrei Serban.

There was loud booing from several parts of the capacity audience when Serban joined the rest of the production team on stage after a performance of Aleksandr Borodin's opera.

But Serban — who has lived in exile for 20 years — simply smiled and blew the audience a kiss.

Covent Garden devotees said some people have not forgiven Serban for a lumbering production of Ludwig van Beethoven's "Fidelio" in 1986. The final "Fidelio" scene, with skeletal, black-winged angels and death reapers on stilts, drew laughs. (AP)

ROME: Italian critics on Friday praised the newest film by Federico Fellini, "The Voice of the Moon," which opened this week in 170 cities throughout the country.

Several film buffs lined up in front of theatres to see the latest work by the director of "La Dolce Vita," "E la cantata," and "Amarcord."

The movie, opened on Thursday. The Milan-based daily Corriere Della Sera described the film as being "stylistically severe, artistically superior, and professionally beyond reproach."

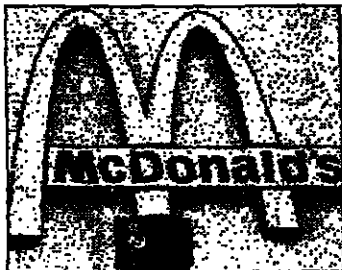
Fellini's 24th work, which is the quixotic tale of two lunatics wandering the Italian countryside, did not receive unanimous praise from its first audiences in the Italian capital, however. (AP)

DOMODOSSOLA, Italy: Gianfranco Castelli, a renowned linguist and Italian literary critic, died Thursday night in his native Domodossola in northern Italy, news reports said. He was 78.

Since last year, Castelli has suffered from partial paralysis, but the cause of his death was not given.

Castelli was a professor of philology who gained world-wide recognition for his analysis of the literary techniques used by such Italian masters of the past as Dante and Petrarch and for his critiques of his contemporaries.

Castelli began his career as a professor in West Germany at the University of Freiburg. He subsequently taught at the Universities of Pisa and Florence, where he had his home. (AP)



30,000 served

More than 30,000 Soviets lined up on Gorky Street Wednesday to eat at Moscow's first, and the world's biggest McDonald's — and the record-breaking opening-day throng was served with courtesy that left them in disbelief.

"We opened the doors and literally 500 people came through. It's going very exciting, ecstatic," said George Cohen, 52, president of McDonald's Canada, who worked 14 years to realise his dream of bringing McDonald's to Moscow. (Reuter wirephoto)



Royal smile

Princess Stephanie of Monaco and Andre (Princess Caroline's son) smile during the opening of the 15th International Circus Festival while all the artists celebrated the 25th birthday of Stephanie in Monaco on Feb 1. (Reuter wirephoto)



Marina weds

Marina Ogilvy, daughter of Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy, and Paul Mowatt after their wedding at the parish church of St Andrews, Ham, Surrey, yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

'Number of the beast'

UK drops unlucky 666

LONDON, Feb 3, (AP): The number 666 has been dropped from British car licence plates because some believe it is a symbol of Satan, traffic authorities said yesterday.

The decision followed several incidents in which drivers claimed to be fixated by the 666 in their number plates, explained Jeff Mumford, senior executive officer of the policy branch of the government's Driving, Vehicle and Licensing Centre.

"It's not that we as an organisation give any credence to this, but we don't want to be inadvertently causing real distress to people," he said in a telephone interview from the centre's headquarters in Swansea, Wales.

The belief that 666 represents Satan comes from Chapter 13, Verse 18 of the New Testament book of Revelation, which refers to "the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is XIX hundred threescore and six."

Among those who shun the number is Ronald

Reagan, who changed his California address from 666 to 668 St. Cloud Drive after leaving the White House.

A man from north Wales claimed that within one week his house was burglarised, a garbage truck backed into his car and he was told his water supply was poisoned, said Mumford. The man blamed his troubles on the 666 in his number plate, he said.

"Then there was a lady who claimed the car actually took hold of her and she couldn't control it. It reversed, mounted the doorstep and squashed her son's scooter. She said she stopped it only in time to prevent it crashing into the kitchen."

He also cited the case of a mother of a convicted murderer who said her son was "a quiet, home-loving boy" until his job required him to drive a van with 666 in the licence plate.

A recent television report featured a man who said he lost his family, home and business after buying a car with 666 in its licence plate.

American migrants policy reversal

WASHINGTON, Feb 3, (AP): Thousands of illegal aliens who are spouses or children of legalised immigrants will be allowed to stay in the United States under a new policy unveiled yesterday by the US Immigration Commissioner, Gene McNary.

The new policy reverses a three-year-old practice of admitting only those family members for "compelling humanitarian reasons."

McNary said the previous policy was not being administered evenhandedly by INS district offices and a result split families.

"We can enforce the law humanely," McNary told reporters at a briefing. "To split families simply encourages further violation of the law as they (illegal aliens) attempt to reunite," McNary said.

Under the new policy, spouses and unmarried children of a legalised immigrant will be allowed to remain in this country if they resided here on Nov 6, 1986 — the day the Immigration Reform and Control Act took effect.

The law granted blanket amnesty to illegal aliens who could prove they were residing in the country before Jan 1, 1982.

It also provided immigrant status to undocumented farm workers who could prove they worked 90 days picking crops in this country during any of three years.

More than 3 million illegal aliens have been granted an amnesty under the 1986 law.

The new policy effects the spouses and children of aliens who received legal resident status under the 1986 law. These people typically followed their relatives to this country but did not arrive in time to qualify for amnesty and are still illegal aliens.

Under the Reagan administration policy reversed by McNary, INS deported only a small number of people following case-by-case reviews of some 10,000 applicants.

Man charged in child porno case

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida, Feb 3, (AP): Fourteen children have been identified by their parents in nude photographs seized from the home of a day-care centre owner charged with possession of child pornography, police said.

John Shaver, 56, was charged with five counts of possessing child pornography after the photographs and magazines were found at his home last Sunday. Police say they are considering additional charges.

Cocaine war

From hysteria to absurdity

PENSACOLA, Florida, Feb 3, (AP): Prosecutors in the United States are bringing charges against more and more pregnant women who take drugs, but a lawyer for one woman accused of delivering cocaine through the womb says the war on drugs is "going from hysteria to absurdity."

Authorities in areas where expectant mothers have been arrested say they're turning to criminal law as a last resort because nothing else worked in stopping the growing number of cocaine-addicted babies.

"When you have seen these children shake, it gets to you," said Lt. Stephen Banakas, narcotics chief for the Pensacola police department. "If it's through arrest or the threat of arrests... whatever it's taken to get people to take care of their children, it's working."

The controversy has emerged from the growing use of crack cocaine around the nation, but mothers addicted to other drugs also have been charged. In Wyoming on Thursday, a judge dismissed a child abuse charge against a pregnant woman who drank excessively. The judge said the prosecutor did not establish that the woman's drinking habits injured her unborn baby.

More than 30 women have been arrested nationwide since the first mother was convicted of delivering cocaine to her newborn in central Florida last August, said Alison Marshall, a Washington, DC, lawyer.

Some police and prosecutors said the arrests are a way of forcing mothers of cocaine babies to get drug treatment. They contend that some pregnant addicts are going straight because they fear prosecution.

But crackdown critics — they include the American Public Health Association, National Women's Health Network and National Organisation for Women — say the arrests are doing more harm than good.

Some even say the arrests could encourage women to have abortions or result in "trash can babies."

Beatles may unite again

DETROIT, Feb 3, (Reuter): Ex-Beatle Paul McCartney said yesterday that there may be a reunion for the three surviving members of the band.

McCartney told a news conference some form of collaboration was possible after the conclusion of a 20-year legal battle over royalties between himself, former Beatles George

Harrison and Ringo Starr and Yoko Ono, widow of John Lennon, who was shot outside his Manhattan home in December 1980.

"There's a couple of projects that are possible," he said.

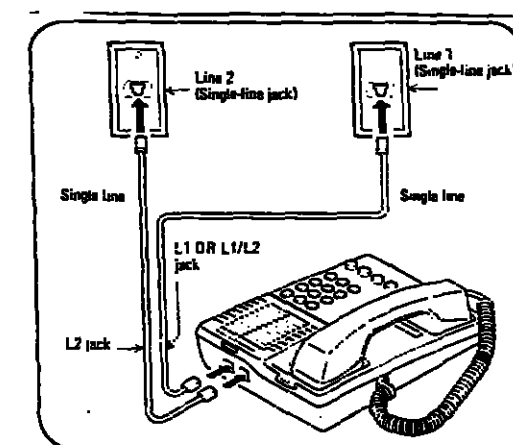
McCartney did not provide specifics and he did not say whether he had discussed the idea of a reunion with Ringo or George.

McCartney, his wife, Linda, and a four-member band are in Detroit to start the North American leg of a 1990 world tour, his first since 1976.

On the tour McCartney has been playing some Beatle hits such as "Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" "Let It Be" for the first time in many years.

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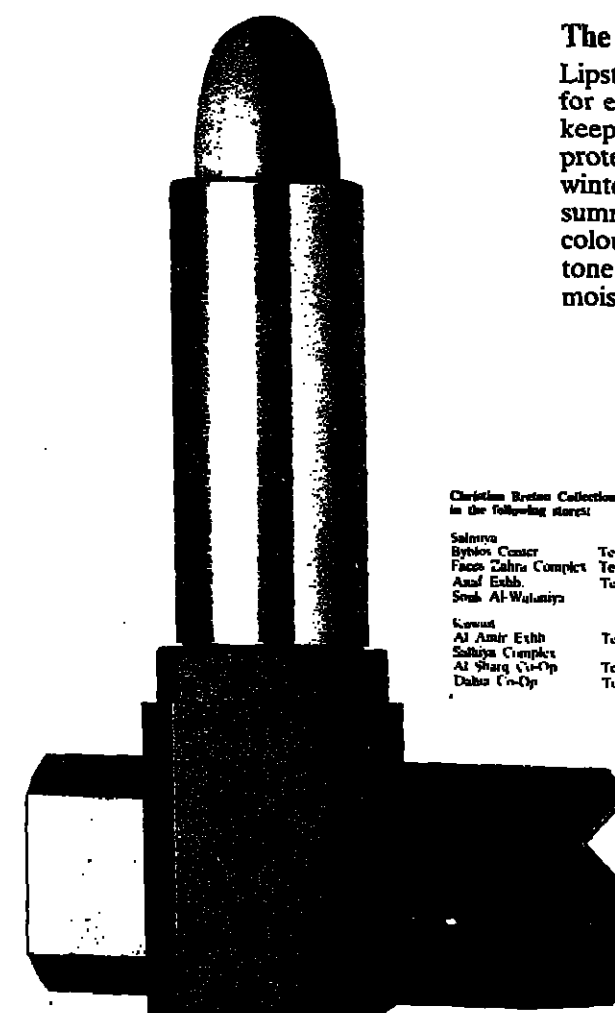
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PoW, but Noriega will be tried

MIAMI, Feb. 3, (UPI): The Justice Department said it will treat deposed Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega as a prisoner of war, but asserted its right to try him on criminal drug charges in a civilian court.

The department filed a 40-page response in Miami federal court yesterday to Noriega's claim that US district judge William Hoever has no jurisdiction over his case because he is a prisoner of war under the Geneva Convention.

"Nothing in the Geneva Convention provides any support for the contention that this court lacks jurisdiction to try the defendants on the criminal indictment pending against them," it said. "In fact, the Geneva Convention specifically contemplates that in appropriate circumstances prisoners of war may be prosecuted in the civilian courts of the detaining country."

Co-defendant Lt Col Luis Del Cid also claimed protection under the Geneva Convention because, like Noriega, he too surrendered after the US military invasion in Panama Dec. 20.

The motion said Del Cid, a former member of the Panamanian defence forces, would be afforded the same protection as Noriega, but that he also should not be permitted to escape prosecution on drug-related charges.

Defence attorneys said they would not respond until they had thoroughly read the government document.

One of the defence claims involving the prisoner of war issue was whether Noriega was able to be prosecuted for crimes that occurred before the US invasion.

The defence claims the Geneva Convention prohibits criminal charges on crimes that occurred before an act of war.

The government's response said the law clearly states that "prisoners of war may be sentenced for offenses against the detaining power as long as the prisoners of war are subject to the same penalties to which members of the armed forces of the detaining power would be subject."

It did not grant prisoner of war status for either criminal defendant, but said the United States would extend the appropriate privileges to the men, whether either are found to qualify for PoW status by a world court.

"In sum, there is no merit to the defendants' contention that the Geneva Convention bars this court from exercising jurisdiction over them," it said.

Thus, even if Noriega and Del Cid are considered to be "prisoners of war" within the meaning of the Geneva Convention, they are not entitled to dismissal of the charges against them.

The document said it was not necessary for Hoever to address the question of whether the Geneva Convention applies for two reasons. The first, it said, was that the United States has decided "as a matter of policy" to give Noriega and Del Cid PoW protection.

Defence attorneys in challenging Hoever's jurisdiction over the case have declared that as a prisoner of war he should be sent to a neutral country or housed in PoW camp.

They said they had determined that Noriega was a prisoner of war and it would be up to a world court to decide whether he should be stripped of that status.

Kebba Mbaye, vice-president of the International Court of Justice, said earlier this week that Noriega would not be able to petition the court privately. He said the court can only handle "disputes by states which are brought by states."

Mbaye, a native of Senegal who was in the Netherlands at the time, said the ICJ's jurisdiction is valid only if both countries in a dispute accept the jurisdiction of the court.

He said the United States withdrew from the court's jurisdiction after a case several years ago between Nicaragua and the United States. There was no indication in Friday's document, signed by lead prosecutors Pat Sullivan and Myles Malina, that the US government was prepared to return to the World Court's jurisdiction in the Noriega case.

Body shape can help determine breast cancer risk

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 3, (AP): A new study indicates that weight distribution plays a role in the risk of breast cancer, with "apple" shapes having a greater risk than women with "pear"-shaped bodies.

Women can gauge their risk of breast cancer by dividing their waist measurements by their hip measurements, researchers from the University of South Florida said in a study published in the Philadelphia-based *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

In a separate study, Texas researchers said they have identified an enzyme that may help predict which breast-cancer patients are most likely to suffer a relapse.

Breast cancer is expected to strike an estimated 150,000 US women and cause 44,000 deaths this year in the United States.

The Florida study, led by David Schapira of the H Lee Moffitt cancer centre and research institute at the

University of South Florida, found that women who carry their weight around the middle are more at risk for developing breast cancer than those who bulge at the hips and thighs.

"When we looked at women, obesity was not a factor. It's where you have the fat," Schapira said. "An overweight pear is still at lower risk than someone leaner and apple shaped."

"This refines our information," said oncologist Dr Paul F Engstrom of the Fox Chase cancer centre. "Not all

obesity is the same."

Previous studies had established a link between obesity and breast cancer, but Schapira said this may be because women tend to gain weight in their abdomen.

Fat cells in the upper parts of the body, he said, are larger and have a different metabolic and hormonal structure than those in the lower part of the body.

The Florida team studied 216 breast-cancer patients diagnosed from August

1987 to June 1988 and 432 healthy women. The subjects ranged in age from 25 to 83.

Breast-cancer patients had significantly greater deposits of upper body fat, plus greater waist-to-hip and abdomen-to-thigh ratios, researchers found.

Schapiro said women whose waist-to-hip ratio is 0.77 to 0.80 are classified as "mildly apple shaped" and are three times as likely to develop breast cancer,

a risk equal to having either a sister

mother who had breast cancer. Women whose ratio is higher than 0.80 are "very apple shaped," Schapiro said, and are six times as likely to develop breast cancer, a risk equal to having both a mother and sister who had breast cancer.

Ratios of 0.73 to 0.76 define a woman as "mildly pear shaped," while women with ratios of less than 0.73 are "pear shaped" and at low risk of getting breast cancer, he said.

Less meat, bikes, solar power the way

For a safe eco-future ...

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3, (Reuters): A vegetarian meal in every pot, a solar heater on every roof and a bicycle in every garage are imperatives for a ecologically safe future, the Worldwatch Institute environmental group said today.

In its "State of the World" report for 1990, the Washington research group said a world dedicated to recycling, food and energy efficiency and slow population growth must be built within 40 years if modern civilization is to survive.

"If we have not succeeded by 2030, environmental degradation and economic decline will be feeding on each other, causing social structures to disintegrate," said institute president Lester

Brown.

Such declarations are not new for Brown, whose group has been predicting a dire fate in annual reports since 1984, and who is known for commuting via bicycle in a city where luxury cars are probably more common.

This year's report devotes its final chapter to a detailed description of the "sustainable society" of tomorrow that Brown said is the earth's last chance.

"A sustainable society is one that satisfies its needs without jeopardising the prospects of future generations," the Worldwatch report said.

It is filled with images of electricity-generating

windmills in Northern Europe, of solar water heaters meeting every household's needs, and of hydrogen-powered cars and human-powered bicycles filling city streets.

Reducing dependency on fossil fuels will help forestall global warming caused by the atmospheric accumulation of carbon dioxide and other gases which threaten to wreak havoc in world agriculture, Worldwatch said.

Also, it said people in developed countries must get used to eating less meat as the food demands of a growing population will make it more difficult to use grain for feeding livestock or poultry.

Firms offer levitated train

A Japanese firm told a state Senate committee Friday it is willing to pay for \$30-million-per-mile, magnetically levitated commuter rail line linking downtown Los Angeles, Orange County and the San Fernando Valley.

The firm, HSST Corp., in exchange would receive rights of way and an exclusive agreement to operate the rail line, general manager Eiji Ikeda told a joint hearing of the Senate transportation and appropriations committees.

Ikeda said a five-mile (8-km) demonstration project along the Santa Ana freeway in Orange County could be ready to operate within 18 months of approval. The trains, running along three freeways, eventually could transport millions of commuters each year to and from urban centres and Los Angeles international and John Wayne airports.

Man arrested in extortion: A zoologist accused of unleashing a computer virus that crippled computers in England and other countries two months ago has been arrested on a fugitive warrant in Ohio.

Joseph W. Popp was arrested Thursday and is being held on a federal fugitive warrant. He is charged in warrants issued by Scotland Yard in London with blackmail and extortion.

During an initial court appearance in Cleveland on Friday, Popp, 39, told US magistrate Joseph W. Burnett that he is under a psychiatrist's care and must take drugs for a mental condition.

Virus plagues data: The Census Bureau has asked libraries across the United States to destroy computer disks that contain a destructive programme dubbed the "Israeli virus," government officials said Friday.

Jan Erickson of the Government Printing Office said 350 floppy disks contaminated with the "Israeli virus," also called the Jerusalem-B, were sent out Jan 26 to libraries along with the Census Bureau's "county and city data book" computer data disk.

The data book was sent to major libraries for use as a reference tool, and has nothing to do with the 1990 census, said Jim Gorman, a Census Bureau spokesman.

Muslim Khalifa stabbed: Tucson police said a controversial Muslim leader who was found dead in a mosque Wednesday had been stabbed many times.

Police said they did not find a knife but did find a 22-caliber handgun underneath the body of Rashad Khalifa.

"We think it was his," said homicide Sgt. Charles Armijo. "He must have had it with him."

Tucson police chief Peter Ronsdorf said investigators had been able to determine why Khalifa was killed.

Man sets son on fire: A man who was paroled after setting his son on fire seven years ago said through a spokesman Thursday he will honour the boy's wishes that he stay away.

Charles Rothenberg was paroled from a 13-year prison sentence in California on Jan 24. After his release, he said he wanted to be reunited with his son, David, who was six at the time his father set fire to his bed.

However, the badly disfigured boy, now 13, said at a news conference last week he wished his father could be jailed for life, and would never forgive him.

Liquor consumption low: Americans drank less liquor last year, continuing a decade-long trend, and wine consumption dropped for third straight year, an industry group reported Friday.

Changing lifestyles, concerns about health and publicity about drunken driving and alcohol abuse contributed to the declines, according to the *Johnson Beverage Alcohol Group*, which publishes an annual survey.

Consumption of distilled spirits dropped more than 2 percent in 1989, to 141 million cases. Liquor drinking peaked at 166 million cases in 1979 and has dropped 15 percent in 10 years.

Priest plans for church: A renegade priest, suspended last year for forming an independent black Catholic parish, will be automatically excommunicated if he carries out a plan to start a church which would renounce Rome and admit women as priests, church officials said Friday.

The reverend George Stallings of Washington disclosed his plans on Thursday night during a speech at DePaul University in Chicago and during an interview on a TV talk show.

Latin America

Duarte asks doctor to let him die: Former Salvadoran president Jose Napoleon Duarte, terminally ill with cancer, has asked his doctors to let him die, his personal physician said on Thursday.

"During his illness I have never seen Duarte as depressed as he is today. He refuses to take medication and does not want to eat or talk," said Dr Jose Luis Saca, Duarte's personal physician.

In a telephone interview with United Press International, Saca said Duarte told him: "It does not make sense to go on living this way, and that he preferred that we let him die." (UPI)

US general removed for opposing: The former head of US military forces in Panama and Central America said Thursday he was removed less than three months before "Operation Just Cause" for his opposition to the Panamanian invasion.

Retired Army Gen. Fred F. Wornor said he stepped down on Oct 1, 1989, as commander of the US Southern Command for "political reasons."

"President George Bush preferred to have



Ortega campaigns

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, with a young supporter at his side, campaigns for the upcoming presidential elections in Jinotega, a mountain city, north of Managua. Elections are to be held on Feb 25. (Reuters wirephoto)



Shooting class

Students at the Self-Defence Academy assume a shooting stance as an instructor aids them in Rio de Janeiro on Jan 31. More and more Brazilians are attending classes at such schools as violent crimes in the city increase. (Reuters wirephoto)

someone who not only supported the measure but who could believe in it," Wornor told Utah State University international relations students. (UPI)

Panamanians doubt: A pollout of remaining US invading forces by month's end is premature, say some Panamanian officials, adding that the new police force is not ready to provide the security the country needs.

Those sentiments were echoed by Panamanians, who said they feel safer with the US presence. But their fear may be unfounded.

Maj. Gen. Marc Cienega, commander of the US Army South, the US ground forces in Panama, told a group of Latin American observers on Thursday: "There is no threat of subversion to worry about." (AP)

Garcia's change of heart: President Alan Garcia announced on Friday in Lima, he will attend the Feb 15 Cartagena, Colombia, cocaine summit he had threatened to boycott because of the US invasion of Panama.

Garcia said his change of heart followed President George Bush's State of the Union statement on Wednesday night that US troops sent to Panama for the December 20 invasion would be removed by the end of February.

Bush's announcement "removes one of the fundamental obstacles that made our presence in Cartagena difficult," the Peruvian President said and means he will join with Bush President Virgilio Barco of Colombia and Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora in the Colombian resort city meeting. (UPI)

Brazilian singer boycotted: Government officials and anti-racism groups said on Wednesday they plan to seek UN sanctions against a popular Brazilian singer who gave a concert in Johannesburg in defiance of a UN ban on cultural exchanges with South Africa.

Joao Romao, president of the Institute of Black Culture, said 10 groups led by the International SOS racism organisation also have asked the United Nations to include Brazilian singer Jostina on a list of people who have defied the 1968 UN ban.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Brazilian authorities plan to make a similar appeal to the UN in the next few days. He said authorities would also study whether or not Jostina should be subjected to additional sanctions, such as a public denunciation "that would tarnish her image." (UPI)

UN mediation ruled out: Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said on Friday he is ready to negotiate with leftist rebels in the Central American country but ruled out direct UN mediation, saying the talks "have to be between Salvadorans."

Cristiani, who appealed to congressional leaders on Thursday not to take military aid to El Salvador, said UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has agreed only to talk with rebels of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, or FMLN, to try to bring them to the bargaining table.

"I don't think the FMLN should continue to insist on what the role of the secretary-general is if he continues to go by what he sees as the role, dictated by a UN resolution," Cristiani said at a National Press Club conference. (UPI)

US jets look for cartel missiles

BOGOTA, Feb. 3, (UPI): Two US Drug Enforcement jets have been flying reconnaissance flights over Colombian territory since Wednesday looking for secret airports and hidden drug cartel planes possibly armed with anti-aircraft missiles, a civil aeronautics board official said yesterday.

Two weeks ago the American CBS television network reported US secret service agents were investigating reports the notorious Colombian drug cartels were smuggling SA-7 shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles into the country to shoot down Air Force One carrying President Bush to Cartagena for the Andean drug summit in February.

The reports were later denied by both the Colombian government and the US embassy in Bogota.

Earlier this week the board's operations chief, Col Jorge Gonzalez, authorised the flights, refuelling and maintenance stops at national airports for the US Drug Enforcement Administration's turbocharge commanders, the board reported.

"It's a security mission to try to identify the airports and verify if on those places there are missile-firing apparatus," an aeronautics official said.

A spokesman for the US embassy in Bogota confirmed the flights but would not give any details on their mission.

The US planes, which can fly at altitudes up to 40,000 feet (12,000 m) speeds of 250 knots (460 kph) per hour, are equipped with high-powered spy cameras that can capture images from high altitudes without being detected by radars, the aeronautics official said.

Bush is to arrive Feb 15, and will be flown by helicopter to Mazatlan island, in the day off Cartagena, for the meeting with the presidents of Colombia, Bolivia and possibly Peru to put together a hemispheric drug strategy.

Last week some 5,000 security agents began prowling the streets of the Caribbean port city to prevent a possible drug cartel attempt to sabotage the summit during Bush's five-hour visit.

A Defence Ministry official told reporters the flights were part of routine efforts to spot clandestine drug trafficker airstrips, though this time he said they were searching for planes possibly equipped with missiles.

Authorities Friday discovered the blindfolded, bullet-riddled bodies of 10 men and a woman some 25 miles (40 km) outside of Bogota, a radio station reported.

Seven of the victims, so far unidentified, were found in Guayaquil, Cundinamarca state, while four others were discovered in nearby Chirajara, RCN radio said.

Investigators were dispatched to the area to identify the victims, who were apparently bound by their captors and then shot with 9 mm bullets.

Potential swallows are identified by customs agents through questioning, said Contorno. They are then taken to hospitals for X-rays. Contorno said the agents' success rate is 65 per cent to 70 per cent.

The use of mules was splashed across newspapers and television after last week's Avianca crash on Long Island, when two of the surviving passengers attracted police attention.

The two — Jose Orlando Figueroa, 31, and Antonio Zalazar, 46 — remained under police guard Wednesday at two hospitals. Both will be arrested on drug charges upon their release from the hospital, said Nassau county police spokesman officer James Higgins.



Flooded

A lone farmhouse is swamped in Worcester, England, after 24 hours of rain caused rivers to flood the area. More rain and gales are on the way as families fight to mop up the damage.

A violent windstorm gusting at up to 104 mph (168 kph) battered northern France yesterday, killing several people and disrupting air and rail traffic, authorities said.

At least five people were killed during the tempest that forced air traffic controllers at Paris' Orly and Charles de Gaulle airports to suspend virtually all departures.

Railroad links from Paris to the northern region of Brittany and on the outskirts of the northeastern city of Troyes were cut after overhead electrical cables and trees fell onto the tracks. The Paris Gare Saint-Lazare railroad station was closed to traffic last afternoon.

The dead included two people in the Val de Marne area — a woman crushed by the roof of her home and a man killed by a falling fence. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bomb-sniffers are unreliable

Plastics can't be detected

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3, (AP): A new device designed to detect plastic explosives in airplane luggage is deficient and probably could not have discovered the bomb which destroyed Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, members of a Presidential Terrorism Commission said yesterday.

Fanatics at a hearing of the Presidential Commission on Terrorism Aviation Security and Terrorism sharply questioned plans by the Federal Aviation Administration to require the airline industry to buy hundreds of the bomb detecting devices, complaining that they have not been adequately tested.

But Monte Belger, the FAA's associate administrator for aviation standards, said he believes the sophisticated detection device is the best of its kind in the world, has been adequately tested and should be deployed.

In a three-hour hearing, the commission also was told that the device — which employs a technique called thermal neutron analysis, or TNA — will cost far more than original estimates of between \$700,000 to \$1 million each.

Belger said the first five TNA machines actually will cost a total of \$15 million or about \$2.5 million each because of the rush nature of the order.

A TNA system is at work ins-

pecting baggage at Kennedy international airport in New York. A second system was installed at Miami international airport last week and is being calibrated. A third is to be installed at Gatwick airport near London next month, and site planning is under way to place one at Washington Dulles international airport.

"I think there is a lot of flim-flam going on," said US Senator Alfonse D'Amato, a commission member. "The TNA looks good but it does not do what it is supposed to do. Congress has been sold a bill of goods."

Investigators believe the Lockerbie crash on Dec 21, 1988, was caused by less than a pound (half a kilo) of plastic explosives secreted inside a portable tape player. The crash killed 259 people aboard the Boeing 747 aircraft and 11 people on the ground.

Science magazine, which first reported in August that the TNA machines would not be able to detect a Lockerbie-sized bomb, said the devices are being set at a sensitivity that will detect about 2.5 pounds (one kilo) of explosives.

The TNA machines use neutrons — a type of subatomic particle — to probe luggage for the presence of nitrogen, a major component of explosives.

Hormone risk to cancer allayed

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3, (Reuters): A US government advisory panel has dismissed fears that long-term use of a combination hormone therapy widely used by post-menopausal women might lead to a significant increase in the risk of breast cancer.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) fertility and maternal health drugs advisory committee has concluded unanimously that the available research data does not show that taking a combination of progesterin and oestrogen alters the risk of breast cancer in post-menopausal women.

A study published in the prestigious *New England Journal of Medicine* in August claimed that the drug combination increased breast cancer risk four-fold, particularly for women who used it for 10 years or more.

Other, earlier studies had suggested the therapy might actually decrease the risk of breast cancer.

Oestrogen is increasingly prescribed for post-menopausal women over long periods of time because of its ability to prevent osteoporosis and because recent studies have shown it to protect against heart disease.

It has also long been used in short-term therapy to relieve symptoms of menopause such as hot flashes and night sweats.

The advisory committee, during a two-day meeting at FDA headquarters which began on Thursday, noted that some studies have found that oestrogen therapy alone may slightly increase the risk of breast cancer with long-term use.

It also noted studies demonstrating that adding progesterin to oestrogen therapy lowered the risk of uterine cancer.

Heroin seized, 21 arrested in Spain

MALAGA, Spain, Feb. 3, (Reuters): Police in southern Spain have arrested 21 foreigners, most of them Turks, on suspicion of drug smuggling, local officials said yesterday.

Police also seized 13 kg (28 pounds) of heroin with an estimated street value of \$18 million, pistols and large quantities of cash, they said.

The 21 arrested included 17 Turks, an Iranian, a Yugoslav, a Dutch and an Italian.

Use of mules as drug carriers on the rise among Colombians and West Africans

NEW YORK, Feb. 3, (AP): In the drug trade, they're known as swallows or mules — drug carriers who ingest condoms packed with cocaine or heroin. Federal authorities weren't surprised that two turned up among the survivors of Avianca Flight 52.

"I wouldn't be surprised if more turned up," said Tony Contorno, supervisory US customs inspector at John F. Kennedy International Airport. "My first thought was how many mules would turn up on the flight."

Authorities say the use of mules is on the increase, mostly among Colombians bringing in cocaine and West Africans transporting heroin.

In the past four months, 59 swallows carrying 95

pounds (43 kg) of drugs have been arrested at Kennedy, Contorno said. During the 12 months before that, there were 110 arrests with 155 pounds (70 kilograms) seized. Most of them carry drugs more than 90 per cent pure, officials said.

"We've seen a definite increase," said Drug Enforcement Administration spokeswoman Mary Cooper, who estimated every Colombian flight included three or four swallows. "It's a pretty common practice. We've seen it for years."

Some of the stories are mind-boggling. Several years ago, a man was found with 445 condoms in his system; last year, a man loaded with 4.6 pounds (2 kilograms) of

cocaine was arrested. Customs agents spent 23 days at the hospital with one suspect until he passed all the drugs he carried.

The carriers are likely able to swallow such large amounts by anesthetising their throats and sliding the condoms down, said Dr Farooq Khan, chairman of the department of medicine at the Nassau county medical centre.

"This is the hardest method for us to detect. And the people involved are becoming a little more sophisticated," said Contorno, one of 60 customs agents checking out an average 100 international flights each day. Many of the mules make multiple trips carrying drugs, officials said.

Journalists

Japan domestic issues in spotlight

TOKYO, Feb. 3, (AP) A three-hour verbal scuffle between conservative Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and opposition leaders yesterday made one thing clear—while trade problems are important, domestic issues are dominating Japan's political spotlight.

Kaifu and leaders of four major opposition parties spoke at length during the televised campaign debate on how Japan should handle relations with the United States and how to respond to democratic reforms in Eastern Europe.

All agreed on the importance of dealing effectively with trade tensions and continuing economic reforms aimed at making the economy less dependent on exports. They

disagreed on what concessions Japan should make.

But they clashed most resoundingly on domestic issues. Kaifu, 59, stressed that the United States was also making concessions to ease bilateral friction as he defended his Liberal Democratic administration's trade negotiations.

Leaders of the centrist Komeito (Clean Government Party) and Democratic Socialist Party also voiced a conciliatory stand.

"I think what the United States asks of Japan is quite appropriate," said Komeito chairman Koshiro Ishida, 59. "We should base our relations on the assumption we are partners or friends with each other," said 72-year-old

Democratic Socialist leader Eiichi Nagasue.

But Takako Doi, chairwoman of the No. 1 opposition Japan Socialist Party, said Japan should steer a more independent course.

Ms Doi, 61, said US-Japan relations were "very important but difficult."

"Previously, our bilateral relations were given too much importance," she said. "Now they should be viewed in a global context."

Japan should fulfill its promises of economic restructuring but should make an exception for farm trade, Ms Doi said.

Communist Party chairman Tetsuzo Furuta, also called

for more independence in foreign policy issues.

The 60-year-old communist leader said Japan should withdraw from multilateral talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade if the trade watchdog insists on opening Japan's rice market to imports.

The four opposition leaders really clashed with Kaifu in the domestic arena, where an unpopular sales tax and a series of scandals, along with liberalisation of farm trade, cost the Liberal Democrats their upper house majority in an election last July.

A major influence-buying scandal forced Noboru Takeshita to resign as prime minister last spring and raised calls for political reforms to clean up money politics.

Sales tax to stay

Kaifu defends party policy

SAPPORO, Japan, Feb. 3, (Reuters): Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, fighting to save his party's 34-year hold on power in elections this month, defended a resented sales tax today as a vital pension fund for an ageing population.

Opposition Socialist leader Takako Doi opened her campaign by urging supporters to "move the mountain" and sweep Kaifu's weakened Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) out of government in the vote on Feb. 18.

The LDP has governed Japan since 1955 and presided over the country's spectacular growth into the world's second biggest economy.

But the Recruit bribery scandal and the three per cent sales tax have cut its support.

It lost control of the upper house of parliament in a historic election defeat last year. And the fight is now

for the more powerful lower house, which controls the government.

"This is going to be a very severe election," Kaifu told more than 1,000 flag-waving supporters in the snowy streets of Sapporo, Japan's northernmost big city.

But he said leaders of the four opposition parties, who faced him in a long television debate yesterday, offered no alternative to the LDP.

"The opposition criticised the tax heavily," Kaifu said. "But I asked them time and time again for better solutions, and they had nothing constructive to say."

He said the sales tax "is vital to support Japan's quickly ageing society... I'm sure your pension fund is a big concern to you."

The prime minister, installed by party elders after scandals tainted major LDP figures last year, flew to Sapporo after opening his election campaign at a Tokyo railway station.

Doi, the forceful chairwoman of the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), launched her campaign three stations away on the same line, urging Japanese to repeat last year's opposition victory in the upper house election.

"We must force the LDP into a minority in the lower house as well. We must thoroughly change politics," Doi said. "We must move the mountain again."

A crowd of about 2,000 waved JSP-printed banners reading: "Abolish the sales tax."

Political analysts expect the LDP to cling to a slim majority in the 512-seat lower house, perhaps with the support of independents. It had 294 seats in the house just dissolved.

But its hold on power will almost certainly be weakened by the opposition majority in the upper house, which can block many laws.

Results of the election, in which 90 million people are eligible to vote, will be known early on February 19.

Kaifu, speaking from a van studded with loudspeakers at Tokyo's Shibuya railway station, told 5,000 supporters waving rising sun flags: "I know you can judge who will create a brighter future."

Sect leader to run in polls

After power

TOKYO, Feb. 3, (Reuters): A controversial Buddhist sect leader who claims to have the power of levitation is hoping to use his popularity among young Japanese to win a seat in Parliament.

Hundreds of Shoko Asahara's followers have taken to the streets to campaign for the pudgy 32-year-old, who also says he can meditate for hours underwater without breathing.

"When I joined the Aum sublime truth, I finally found what I had been pursuing," one 24-year-old sect member said. "Here, you feel purified. Have you not noticed how people who join even start to look younger?"

The sect, launched by Asahara in 1986, claims about 4,000 members and says it helped 200 people reach enlightenment last year through training that includes yoga, meditation and psychic power.

Critics have accused the long-haired, long-bearded Asahara of luring thousands of young Japanese away from their families.

"When they are adults and have decided to join the religion, there is little we can do," said lawyer Hidehiko Kageyama.

"But teenagers have also joined in."

An official of the sect denied press reports that its meditation course costs as much as one million yen (\$7,000) per person and that it requires members who cannot pay to work on its behalf.

"There is an incredible misunderstanding about the offerings," the official said. "We never ask people to give money. It's all voluntary."

The sect burst into prominence late last year after a lawyer who had fought against it suddenly disappeared, along with his family.

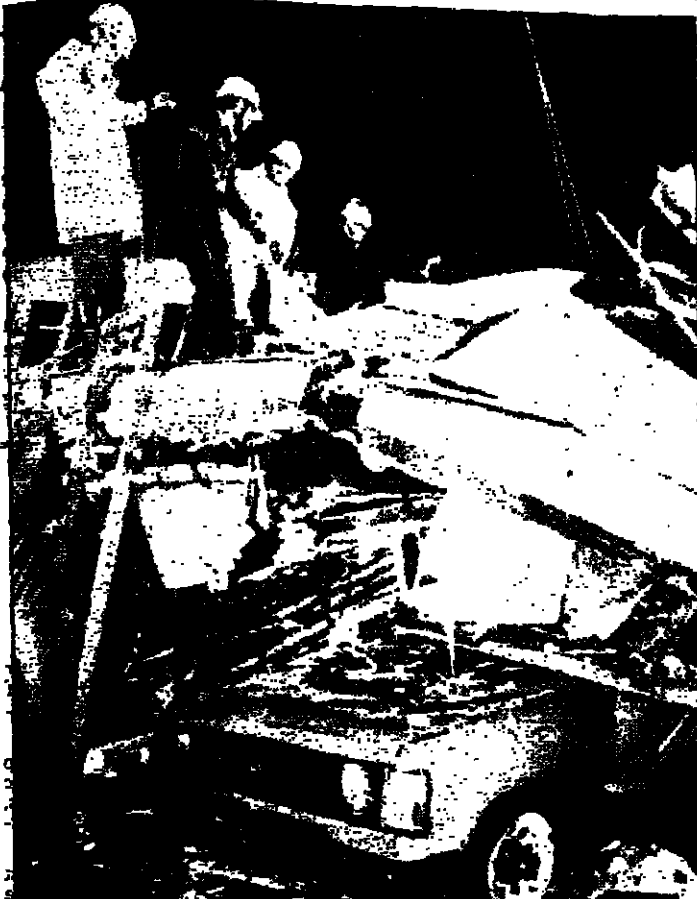
Despite efforts by the national police and lawyers around the country, no trace has been found of 33-year-old Tsutsumi Sakamoto, his wife and their baby son since they vanished from their home in Yokohama, outside Tokyo, over two months ago.

Police said they found a badge of Asahara's sect on the floor of Sakamoto's empty house.

Sakamoto had been working since last May with parents whose children had joined the sect and cut off contact with their families, Kageyama said.

Asahara repeatedly appeared on television to deny the sect's involvement in the case and accused the press of irresponsible speculation.

The number of people seeking to contact their children in the sect jumped to over 80 from about 10 after the media began to report on the group's activities, said Takeshi Ono, a lawyer and friend of the missing Sakamoto.



West German firemen digging out a car crushed in the accident. (Reuters wirephoto)

Train crash kills sixteen

Collision in W. Germany

RUESSELHEIM, West Germany, Feb. 3, (UPI): Two commuter trains collided killing at least 16 people and leaving 86 injured, in the worst railroad crash for 15 years in West Germany.

Police and railroad officials said today.

They said several of the 35 people who sustained serious injuries were in a critical condition this morning, about 15 hours after the crash occurred.

Regional government officials today thanked United States army troops from nearby barracks, who rushed to the scene of the accident with stretchers and first aid kits and joined rescue teams.

Railroad officials said the crash occurred after the driver of a train heading for Frankfurt ignored a stop signal and rammed into an oncoming train just outside the Rueselheim station, in central Germany.

He said it was not immediately clear why an automatic device that should have stopped the train after it passed the signal did not function.

The first cars of each train smashed into each other. One train derailed and several cars crashed onto a parking lot, crushing several automobiles.

The officials said that the accident occurred during rush hour and that both suburban commuter trains were packed to capacity.

Rescue teams found 16 dead and about 86 injured under the wreckage, including one of the train drivers, the officials said.

"I heard noise like an explosion," said 34-year-old Holger Schmidt who was in a hotel room about 30 yards (metres) away when the crash occurred.

"As I looked out the window I saw that one of the cars was standing vertically in the air and fell slowly on its side," he said.

"After the first awful second there was a deadly silence, then a man came crawling out of a car, his head bleeding heavily," Schmidt said.

"Within seconds neighbours came streaming out of their houses to help the wounded," he said.

Officials said the damage would total several million Deutschmarks (dollars).

They said the crash was the worst in West Germany since two trains collided in southern Germany, in June 1975, killing 41 people and leaving more than 100 seriously injured.

Turkey expels Greek diplomat

Tit-for-tat

ANKARA, Feb. 3, (Reuters): Turkey today ordered the tit-for-tat expulsion of a Greek diplomat in a row over Greece's Muslim minority that threatens to shatter rapprochement between the long-time foes.

A Foreign Ministry official said the Greek Consul-General in Istanbul, Elias Klis, would have to leave if Athens confirmed it had ordered the expulsion of a Turkish diplomat based in the northeastern Greek town of Komotini.

Greece said yesterday it was ordering out Consul-General Kemal Gur from Komotini, where 19 people were injured in clashes between Christians and Muslims on Monday.

"If the Greek side communicates to us officially its decision to order out our diplomat, then the Greek Consul-General in Istanbul will be declared persona non grata," the Foreign Ministry official said.

The semi-official Anatolian news agency earlier quoted Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz as saying Klis would have to leave Turkey today.

Greek Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras said in Athens

that Gur would be expelled because Ankara insisted on describing the Muslim minority in western Thrace as "fellow countrymen" and "citizens of Turkish origin."

Greece describes the 120,000 Muslims in the region, under Ottoman rule until 1913, as Greek Muslims.

The row has forced ties between the NATO neighbours to their lowest level since they nearly went to war over Aegean Sea rights three years ago.

It also appears to have shattered, at least temporarily, rapprochement that began in 1988 after decades of enmity. One of the main disputes is Turkey's 1974 invasion of Cyprus.

European diplomats said they thought the latest row would not get out of hand.

"We are not getting overly worried about it. We are not writing alarming telegrams home," one said.

Turkey earlier this week rejected a request by Athens to withdraw Gur and said it hoped any misunderstanding over words used to describe Muslims in Greece could be dispelled.

Pardon for 7 Basque men

MADRID, Feb. 3, (Reuters): The Spanish government pardoned seven jailed Basque separatists yesterday, resuming a long-interrupted policy of granting amnesty to extremists who give up armed struggle, state television said.

The six men and one woman, who were held in separate prisons across Spain, had forsaken violence, the television said. It gave no details of the crimes for which the former ETA guerrillas had been convicted nor their sentences.

Government officials could not be reached for comment.

ETA has strongly opposed the policy of individual pardons and in 1986 killed one of its former leaders, Maria Dolores Gonzalez

Catain, who had taken up the offer and returned home to the Basque country from exile in France.

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Calls for halt to Kosovo unrest

Police accused of using 'state terrorism'

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, Feb 3, (Reuters): Human rights and opposition groups in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province accused police today of using "state terrorism" in suppressing riots by ethnic Albanians that have left up to 29 dead.

Thousands of police and security forces in bullet-proof vests patrolled streets with automatic weapons today. Factories were on strike across the province but there were no immediate reports of new clashes or casualties.

The groups said in a statement most of the victims in the past 10 days of unrest were shot in the back of the head in "mass reprisals" and called for urgent measures to avoid a "bloody civil war."

"Ninety per cent of the cases where people were killed indicate that mass reprisals were used and that most of the victims were shot in the back of the head," it said.

The statement, sent to the federal government and the state presidency, offered no evidence to support the allegations.

"The uncontrolled individual actions of the police forces," it said, "can easily be recognised as classical forms of state terrorism."

Reporters in the region say up to 29 people have been killed in the riots by ethnic Albanians demanding more autonomy in the region that borders Albania and is ruled by the republic of Serbia. The official death toll is 20.

They are the worst clashes since 28 people were killed in riots last March after Serbia cut back the province's autonomy. The unrest is fuelled by centuries of feuding between the majority Muslim Albanians and Christian Serbs and Montenegrins.

Yugoslavia's communist authorities, embroiled in their worst crisis since World War Two, have threatened tough action to end the unrest. Tanks and troops have been roaming the area and partial state of emergency is still in effect.

Serbian Prime Minister Stanko Radmilovic was due to visit the province today and met political activists to try to end the unrest.

The Kosovo human rights and opposition groups urged the government to join them in talks on ending the violence.

"We expect concrete steps as soon as possible to enable dialogue to start between Yugoslav government representatives and representatives of the signatories of this declaration for democracy against violence," their statement said.



An ethnic Albanian showing the V-sign during the demonstration in Pristina Feb 2. (Reuters wirephoto)

It was signed by Kosovo's branch of the United Yugoslav Democratic Initiative, the Kosovo Human Rights Committee, the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo and the Kosovo Philosophical Society. All newly-founded groups have been allowed to operate under a gradual relaxation of controls over the past year.

Clashes raged across the province yesterday as police fired tear gas at thousands of ethnic Albanians hurling stones and chanting "democracy, democracy" and the Yugoslav Army said it was ready to use force to stop civil war.

"There will be no breaking up of Yugoslavia in any way, no violent takeover of power, nor will we permit civil war in the country ... the intentions (of the

ethnic Albanians) must be prevented by all means available and even by force," he said.

Troops have been on the streets of Kosovo since Thursday but the army says they have not been used in clashes with ethnic Albanians demanding greater autonomy and political reforms.

Albania protested to the United Nations at the killing of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, the official news agency ATA said.

"Yugoslav police forces are firing at the innocent population, killing and injuring a large number of people, including women and children. This has aroused profound indignation among the Albanian people," Foreign Minister Reis Malije wrote to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Karabakh foes hold fire

MOSCOW, Feb 3, (Reuters): Delegates from the warring Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed today to cease hostilities along their joint border and declared the escalation of their ethnic conflict was against both sides' interests.

Leaders of the two southern republics' mass movements also agreed on provisions for an exchange of hostages taken during the latest violence over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh territory that has claimed more than 320 lives in the past two years.

A spokesman for the Latvian Popular Front, host for the meeting in the Latvian capital Riga, said the two sides had issued a joint statement after the conclusion of their first round of direct talks in the early hours today.

"It stated that they agreed that the escalation of the conflict was against the interests of both sides," he said.

The spokesman said the Armenians and Azerbaijanis had also agreed on provisions for the exchange of hostages and a cessation of hostilities along their



Soviet soldiers rest during a patrol in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku. (Reuters wirephoto)

entire border, where thousands of Soviet troops have been deployed to keep the peace.

But both sides had restated their positions over Nagorno-Karabakh, a region which has been part of Soviet Azerbaijan since 1923 but is populated mainly by Armenians.

radio publication interfax, the two delegations had stressed that their conflict arose from territorial claims rather than religious differences.

The talks between leaders of the Azerbaijani Popular Front and the Armenian National Movement are being held under the auspices of the Baltic council

composed of the powerful popular front mass movements of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

At earlier separate talks with members of the Baltic council, the Azerbaijani Popular Front condemned Moscow's decision to send troops into their capital, Baku, on January 20.

Soviet party may be over

MOSCOW, Feb 3, (Reuters): The Soviet Communist Party will consider giving up its guaranteed monopoly on political power and other radical proposals at a key meeting next week, a Moscow radio publication said today.

The Interfax news bulletin said the proposals would come in a "draft platform of the CPSU" to be submitted on Monday to a plenary session or plenum of the central committee, the party's policy-making body.

Interfax, which has good official contacts, did not specify who was behind the proposals but the wording left little doubt it was referring to an official report to be delivered by party general secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

"Our ideal is humane democratic socialism," the news service directly quoted the document — which would be the centrepiece of the plenum — as saying.

"The draft platform calls for a radical restructuring of the party, which will fight for its leading role, but assume no state or government powers, nor lay any claim to having its role set down in the constitution," Interfax said.

It said the principle of a multi-party system "is not rejected, but is not treated as a panacea" in the draft, which also provided for the right to platforms within the party and the right of a minority to defend its views.

"However, the party will not permit factions with an internal organisation or discipline of their own," it said.

Some Central Committee officials, contacted through Soviet journalists, said they could not comment on the Interfax report or confirm that it corresponded to a draft Gorbachev has been preparing over the past two weeks.

Other Soviet sources said it appeared to conform to what they had learned of the ideas the Kremlin chief was to put forward.

Interfax, which has been in existence since last summer, said the plan also proposed radical changes in the leadership structure, including the establishment of a party chairman with two deputies and a slimmed down 200-member Central Committee.

Since the last party congress in 1986, the committee has fallen to under 250 members from nearly 400 through deaths and retirements, including a massive purge of conservatives last spring.

The proposals also called for creating a new body, the political executive committee, which would include representatives from all Soviet republics. It was not clear if this would replace the existing Politburo.

The Politburo, which now numbers 12 full and seven candidate or non-voting members, has for decades been the Soviet Union's effective inner cabinet, handling down its decisions to government and state bodies for implementation.

Kohl no to unity poll Honecker quizzed 'Life in danger'

DAVOS, Switzerland, Feb 3, (Agencies): West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl rejected today a Soviet proposal for an international referendum on German unity, saying the issue was for the Germans to decide themselves.

He told journalists Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's proposal to allow all European states plus the United States and Canada to vote on unity went against the right of self-determination laid down in the United Nations' charter.

"We don't need a midwife," he said when asked about the idea. "Self-determination is a basic right, it is in the charter of the United Nations."

Shevardnadze made the proposal on Friday, one day after East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow overturned 40 years of communist policy and said East Berlin agreed the two German states should merge.

Kohl met Modrow in his Swiss ski resort today. He declined to spell-out the subject of their talks but told journalists both states must act very quickly to stem the tide of a mass exodus of disillusioned East Germans to the West.

The Chancellor said there was no point in holding an international referendum on German unity because its result was known in advance.

"It would bring a gigantic majority for German unity," he said.

Kohl also told Modrow that Bonn rejects any idea of a reunified Germany based on neutrality.

It was the first meeting between the two government leaders since Modrow's proposal on Thursday that each Germany gradually withdraw from respective military alliances and form a single neutral state.

Kohl and Modrow met on the sidelines of the 20th World Economic Forum Foundation symposium organised each year to promote contacts between world political, economic and business decision-makers.

West German officials said Kohl at the hour-long meeting at the Belvedere Hotel repeated the gist of remarks made in the morning to the 1,300 symposium participants.

Kohl told the conference that West Germany welcomes East Berlin's acceptance of reunification as an objective and is "prepared to begin talks immediately" following the March 18 elections in East Germany.

"I have no doubt as to the result of those elections," he said in expressing confidence that the communists will be out.

Kohl ruled out any idea of a neutral single German state emerging from any agreement between Bonn and a "freely-elected East German government."

"We do not want Germany going it alone or moving in nationalistic directions," he said.

"That is why I strictly reject any concept of German neutrality," Kohl said, warning that such proposals would lead to German "isolation."

"The federal republic of Germany," Kohl declared, "stands inviolably on the side of the Atlantic alliance and the community of free democracies

EAST BERLIN, Feb 3, (AP): The lawyer and doctor of ousted leader Erich Honecker contended yesterday that criminal interrogation of their client was endangering his life.

The once-powerful 77-year-old was judged earlier this week to be too ill to withstand imprisonment and was freed from an East Berlin jail after about 36 hours detention.

Honecker is to be tried next month on a charge of high treason, national prosecutor Hans-Juergen Joseph has announced.

In a statement carried by the official ADN news agency, prominent lawyer Wolfgang Vogel and Dr. Friedrich Wolff protested the interrogation of their ailing client.

Honecker was questioned yesterday morning by criminal investigators in preparation for the trial against him, said Vogel.

"This unannounced investigation session had the previous imprisonment contrary to doctors' advice has led to a worsening of his health condition, in the view of Dr. Peter Althaus," ADN quoted Vogel and Wolff as saying in their written statement.

Althaus was the surgeon who performed an operation on Honecker on Jan 8 to remove a malignant kidney tumor.

Vogel and Wolff contended that the investigators were aware of the influence their questioning was having on Honecker.

"Dr. Peter Althaus believes that police interrogation at this time could endanger the patient's life," they stated.

whose values we share and who guarantee our security.

The cornerstone of this alliance is our friendship with the United States."

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said yesterday that for German unity to be acceptable there must be firm guarantees no threat of war could ever arise from a new German state.

Shevardnadze, speaking in an interview with Soviet journalists reported by the official Tass news agency, said Germans should renounce all territorial claims on other countries and recognise current frontiers in Europe.

"All peoples, especially the peoples of the Soviet Union, must have the right to a guarantee that a threat of war will never again arise from German land," he declared in the first substantial Soviet comment on a new East German unity plan.

In his interview, Shevardnadze indicated Moscow had certain reservations about the Modrow plan and would like more clarification.

Timisoara toll put at 71

Swiss agree to Romania request on secret funds

BUCHAREST, Feb 3, (Reuters): Romanian authorities said just 71 people died in Timisoara in the December uprising against dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, in contrast to initial estimates which put the number of victims at many thousands.

The new toll, which adds five more deaths to the official figure, was released in a government report today.

Students at Timisoara's Polytechnic Institute immediately said they were not satisfied with the investigation and would carry out their own inquiries.

They told the official Rompres news agency they would make house-to-house visits to establish from relatives just how many people were dead, injured or missing in the western city, 570 km (350 miles) from Bucharest near the Yugoslav border.

The unrest which precipitated Ceausescu's overthrow began in Timisoara in mid-December. First reports said thousands died in fighting against his hated Securitate secret police.

Later inquiries scaled down the death toll, and a week ago the local police chief said only 66 were known to have died and 40 more believed to have been taken to Bucharest and killed.



Dinca cries. (Reuters wirephoto)



Manescu responds.

now help track down a fortune Romanians believe Ceausescu secreted in Swiss banks.

Justice Ministry spokesman Joerg Kistler told Swiss radio today that a second request transmitted by the new Romanian authorities was more detailed than an earlier one which the Swiss considered insufficient.

He said the latest request for legal assistance contained precise indications on several accounts in two Swiss banks he did not name.

Lukanov elected Prime Minister

SOFIA, Feb 3, (Agencies): Bulgaria's ruling communists have put new, moderate leaders in charge of the party and the government to freshen their image before free elections in less than four months.

Andrei Lukanov, 51, a prominent reformer, was elected prime minister unanimously by Parliament today, a day after his close ally, Alexander Lilov, became Communist Party leader.

Lilov was chosen at an emergency congress that ditched some remaining hardliners and prevented radical reformists breaking away on their own.

Lukanov took over from Georgi Atanasov, who resigned with his government on Thursday accused by the party of failing to rescue the economy from its worst crisis since World War Two.

"The social and economic crisis in the country dominates society, and our most important task is to find a way out of this," Lukanov told the National Assembly after his election.

He repeated the party's determination to bring the burgeoning opposition movement into the cabinet, an offer also made by Atanasov which the opposition has so far rejected.

Lukanov said he would announce his government team when Parliament met again next Thursday and the new cabinet would produce an economic recovery plan by the end of February.

Bulgaria, the smallest Warsaw Pact country, has run up \$170 billion foreign debt, and 10 million people battle daily with food shortages. Industrial production fell by 13 per cent in December.

"In February we have to ensure the correct distribution of everything in our society," Lukanov told Parliament.

His election capped a week of major political shuffles which consolidated the position of the group of moderates around President Petar Mladenov, who ousted hardline party leader and head of state Todor Zhivkov in November.

Lukanov and Lilov are close allies. Lilov, Lukanov's immediate predecessor as party chief.

At the congress, which ended yesterday, Mladenov had the party leadership streamlined, creating a new 153-member supreme council to replace the party's old policy-making central committee which was twice the size.

The supreme council's 17-member presidium, replacing the old Politburo, is chaired by Lilov. Both Mladenov and Lukanov are presidium members.

Lukanov, multilingual and Soviet-educated, is well-known abroad, having represented Bulgaria at the United Nations in Geneva and in the Soviet-led communist trading bloc Comecon.

At home, he is considered less formal than many of his government colleagues, and sometimes gives impromptu interviews in the corridors during parliament sessions.

■ Ousted hardline leader Todor Zhivkov is undergoing medical treatment for "old age ailments" but is still alive, despite news reports to the contrary.

Genscher moves on unity plan

WASHINGTON, Feb 3, (AP): West Germany's foreign minister is carrying his programme for German reunification to the administration of US President George Bush on Friday, while getting a preview from US Secretary of State James A. Baker of his pending talks in Moscow.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher's session with Baker, arranged earlier this week, comes on the heels of a surprise call by East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow for a single, militarily neutral German state.

The State Department declined to take a position on either Genscher's approach or the Modrow formula.

"The United States does not endorse or exclude any particular vision of unity," spokeswoman Margaret D. Tutwiler said.

Baker is bound to take up the subject with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze during their talks in Moscow next Thursday and Friday. He also will see Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, who on Wednesday softened long-standing Soviet opposition to German reunification.

Genscher, meanwhile, is consulting with British and French officials as well as Baker and also is due to meet with Shevardnadze next week.

Modrow's plan is for a neutral single German state that would belong neither to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation or to the Warsaw Pact.

China delays Czech visit

BEIJING, Feb 3, (Reuters): China said today it had postponed the visit to Beijing of a Czechoslovakian minister in protest against the tour of Prague by Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

The official New China News Agency said Beijing had no choice but to delay the visit by Ladislav Vodrazka, minister for metallurgy, engineering and electrical engineering, because the invitation to the Dalai Lama was a "gross interference" in China's internal affairs.

Czechoslovakian Ambassador in Beijing Eduard Saul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry today, the agency said.

The Dalai Lama is in Prague as a guest of Czechoslovakian President Vclav Havel.

Vodrazka was scheduled to begin his stay in China on February 17. No new date was set.

"The Czechoslovakian president's insistence on inviting the Dalai Lama to Czechoslovakia in disregard of the solemn position made clear to him in advance by the Chinese side constitutes a gross interference in China's internal affairs," the agency said.

It added that the visit had harmed the traditional friendship between the two peoples and the friendly relations between the two countries.

Officials at the Czechoslovakian embassy in Beijing confirmed that the ambassador had been called in to receive the protest and word that the minister's trip would be delayed. They declined further comment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Soviet withdrawal deal: The Soviet Union and Hungary agreed on Friday to quickly draw up a bilateral accord on a full withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungarian territory.

The announcement followed two days of talks between a Soviet delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Ivan Aboimov and Hungarian officials led by Ferenc Somogyi, secretary of state at the Foreign Ministry.

"The sides ... agreed that the withdrawal of Soviet troops will be carried out on the basis of an inter-governmental agreement to be concluded within the shortest possible time," a joint statement said. (Reuters)

Rebel stronghold Mavinga falls: Angolan government forces have captured the strategic Mavinga airstrip after fierce fighting with UNITA rebels, a high-ranking military source claimed Friday.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Mavinga fell Thursday at 0330 GMT after heavy air force bombardment and fighting that claimed "thousands of casualties" on both sides. (AP)

Crime on the rise in Brunei: A sharp rise in killings and suicide is worrying authorities in the tranquil, oil-rich sultanate of Brunei, police said on Friday.

The number of cases of murder rose to five last year compared to only one in 1988 and of suicide to six from four. Haji Abdul Rahman Hamid, head of the police crime division, told reporters.

The 230,000 people of Brunei, located on the northern coast of Borneo Island, enjoy one of the world's highest per capita incomes, pay no taxes and have free education and medical care. (Reuters)

70 die in oil ship collision: A Chinese news agency said Saturday 70 people were killed last week when an oil tanker collided with a ferry on the Yangtze River and another 43 people were missing.

The China news service said the accident occurred on the morning of Jan 24, in southeast Anhui province along the Yangtze River when an oil tanker carrying 2,300 tonnes of oil ran into a ferry, sinking it.

Rescue workers recovered 38 survivors and 14 bodies soon after the accident and another 56 bodies were found when the ferry was salvaged five days later, bringing the total number of deaths to 70. (UPI)

Moon receives gold crown: The Rev. Moon Sun-Myoung, head of the Unification Church, has received a gold crown studded with diamonds and a ruby for his 70th birthday.

The crown was presented on Thursday at a daylong party at Olympic Park in Seoul. (AP)

NAM meet on world changes proposed

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 3, (Reuters): Yugoslavia, as chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, has proposed a special ministerial meeting in New York in April to consider the dramatic changes on the world scene since the group's summit in Belgrade last September.

In a letter to all members, Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar suggested the meeting take place before or at the start of previously scheduled special session of the UN General Assembly on economic issues and development, set for April 23 to 27.

His January 29 letter, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, said the "processes of dynamic changes in the world, affirm decisions taken at last year's non-aligned summit.

But, he added: "These developments carry uncertainties and contradictions as well, and evolve at a pace that was hard to predict. This makes it incumbent upon us to update our assessments and action."

Loncar proposed using the opportunity afforded by the special UN session to hold the non-aligned gathering in New York toward the end of April.

Call for Iran's expulsion from UN

STRASBOURG, France, Feb 3, (Reuters): West European parliamentarians called yesterday for Iran to be expelled from the United Nations, saying a government that had executed 90,000 people was not worthy of holding a seat.

Some 114 of the 177 members of the Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly in Strasbourg signed a declaration which said Iran was using terrorism as a form of foreign policy and that thousands of Iranians faced imminent execution.

An accompanying statement issued by the Liberal, Democratic and Reformers group said a total of 90,000 people had been executed in Iran since June 1989 and that 150,000 had been jailed for political reasons.

The exiled National Council of Resistance of Iran, which said it supplied the figures on which the group's statement was based, said the statement contained a typing error made in Strasbourg.

The date should have read 1981, but the statement was re-typed in Strasbourg and it got printed as 1989.

National Council spokesman Farzin Hashemi told Reuters by telephone from London.

No member of the parliamentary group was available for comment at the Council of Europe.

In their declaration, the parliamentarians said the UN should expel Iran and give its seat to the National Council of Resistance of Iran, led by exile Massoud Rajavi.

"In the almost eight months period since Khomeini's death, there has been sufficient evidence that the present Iranian regime still employs terrorism ... it is therefore futile to hope for the emergence of a moderate line from within this regime," the parliamentarians said.

The Strasbourg-based council groups 23 western European democracies. The 114 signatories also called for an arms boycott, oil embargo and suspension of relations with Iran.

Soviet Jews 'sold' for \$1.5 billion aid

It's a secret deal: US official

KUWAIT, Feb 3, (Agencies): A top American official asking for anonymity has affirmed that the Soviet Union agreed on the emigration of 150,000 Soviet Jews to Israel until mid-1991 in a secret agreement concluded between Moscow and Washington recently, according to a Kuwaiti daily today.

The Arabic newspaper quoted the American official as saying that the Soviet Union will receive an American grant estimated at one and a half billion dollars in exchange for allowing the Jewish exodus.

The American government's condition to implement the agreement was that the American Jews should make financial donations to support Israel in absorbing the vast numbers of emigrants from the Soviet Union and the American treasury would not assist in that plan, added the American official.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Indian support

KUWAIT, Feb 3, (Kuna): Indian Foreign Ministry undersecretary Manohar Das has said his country adheres to its stance in support of Arab issues, and has always backed the Palestinian question.

Speaking to a Kuwaiti daily newspaper here today, Das said that his country is worried about the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

China, Israeli ties

TOKYO, Feb 3, (Kuna): Israel will open a liaison office in Beijing, China, next month, according to Hong Kong press reports Saturday.

"China Morning Post" paper published in Hong Kong and received here Saturday said that this office is expected to have a consulate status until complete diplomatic relations with China were established.

Call to lift ban

CAIRO, Feb 3, (UPI): A leading Egyptian journalist and confidant of President Hosni Mubarak suggested today the government allow the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood to form a political party.

Makram Mohammad Ahmad, editor-in-chief of the influential Cairo weekly Al-Mussawir, said bringing the Brotherhood into the mainstream of Egyptian politics might help it to drop its fiery rhetoric and espouse more responsible and realistic policies.

42 die in clashes

ERYANBAKIR, Turkey, Feb 3, (AP): Nine Kurdish rebels and three government soldiers were killed in a clash in the eastern province of Van, said the regional governor's office announced yesterday.

The announcement, carried by the semi-official Anatolia news agency, said that the clash started near Kilik village in Nazimiye township Thursday night.

Lawsuit dismissed

WASHINGTON, Feb 3, (AP): A federal judge yesterday dismissed a lawsuit by the former Lebanese ambassador to Washington, who has been trying to avoid being evicted from his country's embassy.

US district court judge Harold Gribble ruled that former ambassador, Abdullah Boudhabib was given adequate notice that the United States was recognising the new Lebanese government of President Elias Hrawi. Gribble denied the request for a preliminary injunction by a Lebanese faction to which Boudhabib remains loyal.

2 commandos killed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 3, (Reuters): Israel said its troops killed two commandos today during a clash in its south Lebanon security zone.

In Baghdad the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) said one of its units killed or wounded several Israelis in the encounter.

An Israeli Army spokeswoman who reported the clash said no Israeli were hurt.

Mideast talks

CAIRO, Feb 3, (Reuters): Foreign Ministers of Egypt, Israel and the United States may meet within a week to prepare for the first Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials said today.

"There is a possibility of a tripartite meeting in a European capital within a week," one told Reuters.

UN visit

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 3, (Reuters): UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will visit Namibia next month for the territory's independence celebrations and may go to the western Sahara on the same trip.

He said he would be in Namibia by March 20, a day before ceremonies are scheduled for the territory's independence from South Africa, and hoped he could visit the western Sahara shortly afterwards if time allowed.

ACC meet

CAIRO, Feb 3, (Kuna): The Foreign Ministers of the Arab Co-operation Council states (ACC) will meet in Baghdad on February 16 to celebrate the first anniversary of establishing the council, radio Cairo said today.

During their meeting, the ACC foreign ministers will prepare for the next ACC summit meeting, scheduled to be held in Amman at the end of February, the radio added.

Cyprus talks

ANKARA, Feb 3, (AP): Rauf Denktash, president of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot republic, said yesterday he will attend a UN-sponsored meeting with Greek Cypriot President George Vassiliou on Feb 26 in New York.



A man tries to set out fire in West Beirut after shells fired from East Beirut, crashed in the Muslim sector of the capital. (Below) Smoke billows from the port area in East Beirut where Christian rivals battle. (Reuters wirephoto)



Civilians trapped in Beirut inferno

Screaming for life

BEIRUT, Feb 3, (Agencies): Trapped men, women and children screamed for their lives in a blazing building in Beirut.

The Christian "Voice of Lebanon" radio station broadcast a special appeal begging civil defence workers to brave artillery barrages to save them.

In the chaos of the Christian enclave's three-day old battle between army troops and their militia rivals it was impossible to learn whether firemen reached the building or what happened to the people inside.

At mid-evening yesterday radio stations reported a major fire burning at the St Peter and Paul hospital in Jdeideh, which had been crammed with wounded and had turned others away because it was out of oxygen and other essential supplies.

As night fell the flames of dozens of fires could be seen across the Christian enclave.

Shells exploded in flashes of orange. Bombardments rose to a hysterical pitch. A huge grey cloud of smoke covered the heart of the city.

"It is complete madness — as if the doors of hell were flung open," a resident said.

Hardly an area was left unscathed by the fighting, which pitted General Michel Aoun's 15,000 regulars against Samir Geagea's 10,000-man Lebanese Forces militia.

Most of the enclave's 900,000 civilians cowered in shelters and corridors.

"We have been in the shelter since dawn. We have eaten all the canned food ... we have no more milk for the babies," said distraught Tina Ghannout.

"Please tell them to stop only for one hour so we could feed our children."

"Stop this massacre," pleaded one radio station "halt this collective massacre," said another.

Passengers arriving today on the ferry from Christian East Beirut said fighting between Christian factions was wreaking more damage than any other battle in 15 years of civil war.

"We never had a war like this," said Robin Haik, 24, who took advantage of a lull in the fighting to escape the brutal exchanges in the Ashrafieh district.

"The Lebanese Forces put all kinds of artillery between every house to try to get the army, and the army tried to hit them with all kinds of shells."

Haik said hundreds of shells fell near his apartment building.

Traffic on the coastal highway from Ashrafieh to the port at Jounieh north of Beirut was reduced because of sniper fire and checkpoints set up by the opposing forces, Haik said.

"There was a car with four bodies in it on the road," he said.

Crew members on the ferry Barones said 200 burned cars littered the parking lot at the port, evidence of the struggle for control of the tiny naval facility that the Lebanese Forces holds.

The dock people at the port told them the fighting in many areas was from street to street.

"One street is controlled by the army, the next by the Lebanese Forces. It's terrible," said crew member Elie, who like his colleagues wanted only his first name used.

"You can't even put your finger on the street," added crew member Danny.

Only 40 passengers got off the boat, which docked just half an hour in Jounieh to pick them up.

The ferry usually arrives in the morning and leaves in the evening, but the Barones docked around 8:30 pm (1830 GMT) and left after half an hour to reach its southeast Cyprus port early in the morning.

"It was very bad. There were bombs, rockets, the crew members were afraid and so were the passengers," said chief officer Demetris Amasias.

Crew members said the fighting had paused around Jounieh, with the Lebanese Forces controlling a coastal strip from the dog river to a point above Amasheet to the north.

Shamir seeks Likud trust

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 3, (UPI): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, facing another test of his political power, today said he would seek a vote of confidence from his Likud Party amid bickering led by his chief party rivals.

The 3,200-member Likud central committee is scheduled to convene Feb 7, but the agenda of the gathering remains unclear.

Committee members have received two invitations — one from Shamir who wants only a straight 'yes' or 'no' vote of confidence and the other by Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon seeking votes on other issues, including the peace process.

"For too long I have been insulted by slanderous and attacking voices from within my own movement," Shamir said on Israeli television. "This is not a normal phenomenon."

"Because of this, I believe that the central committee adopted a decision on confidence in the prime minister and the head of the movement."

Despite the squabbling, Shamir told army radio in an interview, aired today, "there are no ideological differences of opinion in the Likud, particularly on the diplomatic issues."

"I want a clear decision by the central committee that it approves my way and gives support to my leadership and thus gives backing to me to continue to lead the Likud," he said. "I am convinced that a majority in the central committee is satisfied with my position."

On the issue of the Israeli peace initiatives, Shamir said the fate of the proposal launched last spring was "first of all dependent upon us, on our vigorosity to continue it and together with our defence against any attempt to divert it."

After four months of intensive diplomacy, Secretary of State James Baker said yesterday it is still possible that his attempt to bring Israelis and Palestinians into a dialogue could fail.

Baker, in an interview with United Press International, was asked about the possibility that he could invite the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers to a trilateral ministerial conference next week in Europe.

"I would not want to suggest that is going to happen," said Baker, "but with this area and this problem those flickers of hope can be snuffed out very quickly."

"We're not there yet and we don't know if we will get it, but we're going to keep digging away," Baker said. "We'll give up when there's no longer any hope that we can move the process."

Important concessions by the PLO have suddenly raised hopes that the foreign ministers of the United States, Egypt and Israel can hold crucial Middle East peace talks in Europe next week, diplomatic sources said.

Israel will settle many of the Soviet emigrants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, which the Palestinians view as the site for their independent state.

But Tarasov, assistant to Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on the Middle East, ruled out any measures to keep Jews in the Soviet Union and said it was up to the international community to ensure they did not go to the occupied territories.

Jordan has called on the United States and the Soviet Union to live up to their responsibilities in halting the Jewish mass exodus to occupied Arab territories.

Jordanian Information Minister Ibrahim Izzudin was quoted by daily Al-Sayassah as saying the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union to the occupied Arab territories created a new dangerous situation and impeded peace process in the Middle East.

"The US administration is obliged to issue a clear-cut statement on the illegality of settlements and to halt financial assistance to Israel which goes directly or indirectly to settling of immigrants," Izzudin said.

"The Soviet Union which is the main source of Jewish exodus should take into consideration that the immigration of Soviet Jews should not be at the expense of the Palestinian rights, Arab national security and regional and world stability," he added.

In Moscow, Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov met US ambassador in the USSR Jack Matlock asking for explanations concerning the recent information of an American-Israeli accord to "retard" the entry of Soviet Jewish emigrants to the USA so that they could go only to Israel. Tass news agency reported.

The US ambassador denied any official accord with Israel to that score but admitted that a considerable part of Jewish persons sometimes go as long as a year through US entry formalities "for a number of reasons" and that might impel them to go to Israel.

The Arab group decided to set up a committee to recommend action to counter any settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants, league's UN observer said.

Ambassador Clovis Maksoud said the settlement of Soviet Jews in areas captured by Israel during the 1967 Middle East war "not only tends to beef up the existing illegal settlements but also constitutes a potential for the pre-empting of the right of the Palestinians to their independent state in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem."

In a related development, the Soviet Union circulated as a UN document a note it recently sent to Israel warning against settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories.

Bullets plenty, food scanty

Famine looms over Ethiopia

KAJO KAJI, Sudan, Feb 3, (Reuters): Clearing bullets and the abandoned trenches of Kajo Kaji, but there is no food to spare for 20,000 refugees from southern Sudan's civil war.

The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army seized Kajo Kaji, a small town set amid rolling plains of tall grass dotted with mango trees, on Jan 6 after a fierce battle.

Since then the focus of fighting has moved 120 km (75 miles) west to Yei, where a mechanised division of the Sudanese army was holding out against an SPLA siege.

Government-controlled newspapers in Khartoum said yesterday that the army had broken rebel sieges at Yei and at the southern regional capital Juba by driving the SPLA from positions around the town.

Martin Okerruk, the SPLA's civilian administrator in Kajo Kaji, says most of the 20,000 displaced people in his district have come from Yei, which was abandoned by its civilian population two weeks ago.

"At first those who arrive are absorbed into the homes of their relatives who share with them the little they have," Okerruk told Reuters.

During a brief visit, Reuters correspondent did not see large numbers of destitute people without shelter. But food is running out and Okerruk said there was no provision to house them without relatives nearby.

Egil Hagen, the director of the Norwegian People's Aid Programme in Southern Sudan, flew in on Wednesday to assess needs and make arrangements for a food convoy to reach the town from Uganda.

The Norwegians have been quietly trucking food and medicine into rebel-held areas from southern Sudan from Kenya since 1986.

The convoys bring 300 tonnes a week which is distributed by the SPLA's relief wing, the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association.

Hagen, a former major in the Norwegian army who has been running relief supplies into areas of conflict for 10 years, is proud that his trucking operation kept going through last year's rainy season, when the United Nations resorted to airlifts.

"Each Hercules from Entebbe costs \$20,000 and each of our trucks, which carries the same amount of food, costs \$2,000, one tenth of the cost," Hagen told Reuters.

His group kept delivering when most agencies were grounded by the Sudanese government.

"No food apart from what we have delivered goes into the SPLA-held areas since the beginning of November when the government stopped fights," Hagen said.

Hagen himself ignored the flight ban and continued to make clandestine trips to distribution centres.

Meanwhile, a relief plane which was denied permission to land in the besieged southern Sudan town of Juba remained grounded in Nairobi yesterday with its cargo of corn.

However, a Sudan Airways Boeing 707 left Kenya's capital early in the morning with 30-tonnes of emergency corn donated by the Italian government.



A destitute refugee from Sudan's civil war grinds maize in a ward of the abandoned hospital at Kajo Kaji where he has taken refuge. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sudan reprieves convicts facing amputation

KHARTOUM, Feb 3, (Agencies): The Sudanese government has reprieved some convicts awaiting the amputation of limbs under Sharia Islamic laws, the official Sudanese news agency said.

It quoted chief justice Galal Ali Lutfi as saying that several sentences had already been amended and others were being reviewed.

Those waiting to lose their right hand and left leg would instead serve jail terms ranging from five years to life.

Lutfi gave no reason for the change. Sharia laws are at the heart of a seven-year war waged by rebels in the mainly Islamist or Christian south against the government in the Muslim Arabised north.

The laws, which prescribe amputation for theft, stoning to death for adultery and other such punishments, were introduced to Sudan in 1983 by President Jaafar Nimeiri. They have been largely dormant since Nimeiri was ousted in April 1985.

The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army wants Sharia replaced by secular law while the ruling junta wants to retain it in areas where Muslims are a majority.

The review by the chief justice triggered speculation that the move was made under pressure from moderate military men inside and outside the ruling 15-member junta to get the government to improve its image at home and abroad.

Reports have been circulating among Sudanese intellectuals and some foreign diplomats that the military government is strongly influenced by the fundamentalist National Islamic Front. But government leaders denied the reports.

Jaafar Nimeiri, deposed by the military in 1985 after a 16-year presidency, imposed Sharia, or Islamic law, in 1983.

BBC crew held in Azerbaijan

LONDON, Feb 3, (Reuters): A BBC reporter and a freelance camera operator were detained in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan near the border with Iran yesterday, a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) spokesman said.

BBC foreign correspondent Ben Brown and the camera operator were being held by Soviet troops because they entered the area without a visa, according to Moscow Radio, monitored by the BBC.

"Details are sketchy at the moment and we are trying to find out exactly what is happening," the BBC spokesman said.

He said Brown was a Briton but had no details on the identity of the cameraman.

West may reduce efforts to solve Palestinian problem, says expert

LONDON, Feb 3, (Kuna): With the threat of a third world war arising from the Arab-Israeli conflict now greatly reduced, Western governments may devote less efforts to the Palestinian question, an influential Middle East expert has warned.

The former British diplomat, Sir James Craig, who held the key Middle Eastern post of ambassador to Saudi Arabia for several years, also expressed concern that recent upheavals in Eastern Europe might divert attention away from the Middle East.

Nevertheless, the recent change in Western public opinion in favour of the Arabs had provided a ray of hope, "which I never expected to see during my lifetime," he told Kuna in an exclusive interview today.

Craig, who is now director-general of the British Middle East Association, added that the willingness of the Palestinians to accept the existence of Israel had been "the greatest step forward made in my experience of this whole problem."

"It has revolutionised the approach of Western public opinion to the issue," he asserted.

The retired ambassador told Kuna that he firmly believed there would be no settlement of the conflict without outside intervention.

"The most effective outside intervention, probably the only effective outside intervention can come from the United States government," Sir James argued.

No American government, "however well-intentioned," can move until it has enough support from American public opinion, he maintained.

Asked why the British government had not upgraded the level of its contacts with the PLO, Craig claimed "it doesn't matter what the British government does."

The British government has no influence on this matter at all.

French President Francois Mitterrand's talks with PLO leader Yasser Arafat had achieved little impact, he believed.

"The British can, by nibbling away at the Americans, exert some influence," he continued.

But "we can only maintain and exercise that influence if we remain close to them," he said, adding that it was "a difficult choice to make."

The strategic and commercial importance of the Middle East is set to increase during the next decade, Craig predicted.

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E. Germany welcomes foreign investments

Envoy reiterates support for Arab causes

KUWAIT, Feb 3, (Kuna): The East German ambassador to Kuwait today welcomed foreign investments to his country, particularly from the Arab Gulf states and expressed democratic Germany's wish to establish co-operation relations with the Gulf countries.

Dr Kurt Merkel said in press statements published today that his country, which only has diplomatic relations with Kuwait from the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) group, is desirous to tap its present wealth and resources in partnership with capital from the GCC states.

The envoy also praised, in a wide-ranging interview with a local daily, Kuwait-East German relations and appreciated Kuwait's constructive role at the Arab and international levels.

He said that his government now faces some internal difficulties but hoped that following the upcoming March 18 general elections, efforts would be directed towards strengthening relations with Kuwait and other GCC states.

The East German ambassador renewed his country's support of the Palestinian cause, stressing that any peace settlement

of the Middle East problem without involvement of the PLO, sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, is doomed to fail.

Reunification

He also called for national reconciliation in Lebanon and voiced support of the Taif accord, brokered by the Arab League tripartite committee on Lebanon.

Asked on reunification of the two Germanys, Dr Merkel indicated that it would not be on the example of the pre-World War II model but rather within an all-European unity, where no divisions exist

between East and West Europe.

Elaborating the East German envoy said the Bonn and Berlin governments were now discussing development of co-operation ties to maximum levels as a step towards a federal system.

In reply to a question, the ambassador said East Germany does not intend to apply for membership of the European Economic Community, adding Berlin is a member of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon) and would like to stay, since 60 per cent of trade with Comecon stays.

Call to impose death penalty on drug traders

249 kilos confiscated in '89

KUWAIT, Feb 3, (Kuna): A Kuwaiti official today called for imposing capital punishment or life imprisonment on drug traffickers as he complained of the increase of the number in such cases "day after day."

Director of Drugs and Narcotics Department (DND) at the Ministry of Interior Salah Al Musaad told a local daily in an interview that about 249 kilograms of hashish, opium and heroin in addition to eight million hallucinatory pills were confiscated last year.

Musaad said penalties should be reinforced to stop dealers from spreading their poisons in the country.

Musaad said that drug trafficking is an international problem, and statistics reveal that a quarter of the total world population are drug addicts. International conferences and symposia are increasingly being held amidst growing awareness of the dangerous effects of this problem. The last of these symposia was held in Vienna on November 25 till December 20, 1989 which resulted in the endorsement of the proposed agreement.

He said that because drug smuggling formed a formidable part of the problem strict legislations were formulated to deter this illegal and the death penalty is the ultimate. He added that using drugs on the other hand led to addiction and rendered the users unproductive social misfits who remained a source of continuous nuisance, mainly to their family and then to society.

Combat

He said studies were being conducted by the Ministries of Justice and Interior to tighten the penal code on drug smuggling, which is currently penalised by jail terms reaching five years, and that it is hoped that a stricter penalty would be endorsed to combat smugglers and to treat drug-smuggling as a formidable crime.

Hashish, heroin and opium are the commonest types of narcotics in Kuwait, and hallucin-

atory and psychotropic drugs came next, such as captagon and valium, Musaad said.

He pointed out that drug cases registered against juveniles in Kuwait were few, and the cases so far recorded involved people from different nationalities. He further stated that it is not yet known if members of the public anti-narcotic control service were incriminated and ruled out any possible involvement by local pharmacies in the growing drug-abuse problem.

Musaad said that under article 35 of the law No. 74 for 1983 a spouse could report or request the anti-narcotic prosecution to initiate proceedings against a spouse or close relative who might be a drug-addict to get him into the anti-drug rehabilitation programme at a local social welfare institution. The same is true of the government agency where the addict might happen to be employed.

He added that the Public Prosecution could, based on the psychiatric report, request the transfer of the person to the Criminal Court to settle the issue of his consent or acceptance to stay at a local social service institution for the duration of the rehabilitation programme, in line with the second clause of Article 33 under the same law.

He further added that the court could voluntarily or in response to a request by the Public Prosecution order the placement of the person under medical attention for a period not exceeding three weeks for the necessary medical check-ups.

Musaad pointed out that addicts who were caught in possession of drugs or psychotropic substances could under the same article be committed to a social service centre for treatment, and a specially-formed committee would submit a report on his condition to the Criminal Court to decide on his release or retention for similar periods of a minimum of six months and not to exceed two years.

Those who had already been twice into the sanatorium and

had not been released for five years would instead be ordered to serve imprisonment terms as decided by the court, Musaad said.

He said that only in cases when the involved person was suffering from a mental disorder, would the court decide to abstain from ruling against them for the inapplicability of the related penal code.

He added that similar decision would also be adopted when the person involved was proven to be completely ignorant of the perilous effect induced by the substance found in his possession.

Penalties

The degree of firmness of the penalty enforced against the person involved in the drug case would be decided, based on the quantity of the drug substance found with him or in case he is a anti-drug law enforcement official.

Musaad pointed out that on the whole the degree of firmness of the penalty endorsed would be left up to the court to decide, based on the evidence available against the suspect and the estimated size of his crime. The minimum jail term for drug-smuggling crimes is currently five years, while drug-trafficking is penalised with a minimum three years and four months.

He said that smuggling is also penalised by a maximum jail term, reaching up to 15 years while the maximum penalty for trading or trafficking is ten years, adding that users are jailed for a minimum period of 20 months and a maximum period of five years.

The Public Health Ministry has supervised the dissemination of use and identification of drugs, while article 24 of the law banned the production of concoctions containing drugs without prior official licence, Musaad said.

He stressed the disastrous effects of the drug problem on the social structure, saying it would destroy the healthy and the strong, mainly youth, and also jeopardise social security.

Faisal award for US chemist

HOUSTON, Feb 3, (UPI): A Texas A-and-M University chemist has won the 1990 King Faisal International Prize in science for a lifetime of research that led to the development of high-octane gasoline, antifreeze, structural plastics and other technological mainstays of modern life.

"It hit me out of the blue," F. Albert Cotton, 59, told the Houston Post in an interview. The newspaper contacted Cotton by telephone at Cambridge University in England, where he is working temporarily.

Cotton said he learned of the honour last week from a reporter for a Saudi Arabian newspaper.

Cotton also has been named this year's recipient of the National Academy of Sciences Award in chemical sciences. He is the only scientist ever to receive all six American chemical society gold medals and recently was awarded a second Guggenheim Fellowship.

The King Faisal prize is awarded for "accomplishments benefiting mankind."



Student exchange programme

Deputy General Director of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Engineer Mahmoud Al Mudhaf received two Swedish experts and exchanged talks with them on the possibility of setting up a student exchange programme.

The two Swedish experts were invited by the authority's Industrial Training Centre to visit Kuwait in order to tour the centres and colleges and also to provide advice on organising technical training programmes to upgrade the level of work.

During their visit the two experts visited the Industrial Training Centre. The Communications and Aviation Centre in addition to the Electricity and Water Centre and the Health Sciences College.

The Swedish experts stated their establishment in Sweden is keen to train Kuwaitis on operating advanced technological devices.

'Mad cow' may affect humans: UK expert

LONDON, Feb 3, (Kuna): Humans could start to show symptoms of BSE "mad cow disease", within the next 20 years, a British doctor predicted in a television programme here yesterday.

Dr Helen Grant, a specialist from London's Charing Cross and Middlesex Hospital said infected offal is still being fed to people in pies and other meat products.

She believed that some genetically susceptible people may have become infected with this material by eating meat products.

As a result they would "develop the disease in the course of the next 15 to 20 years," Dr Grant predicted in a current affairs programme screened in northern England, "Northern Eye".

She claimed last October's British government ban preventing cow brains and spinal cords, the most likely infected material, from entering the food chain did not go far enough.

She pointed out that the offal from calves under six months old was excluded from the ban and is still entering the food chain.

The mad cow disease is an incurable condition which affects the animal's brain.

A report on Jan 27 had stated that the first case of "mad cow" disease diagnosed outside Britain, the Channel Islands and the Irish Republic were reported in the Sultanate of Oman.

A letter in a specialised publication in London, the Veterinary Record said the disease, bovine spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) was found in the GCC country in two Jersey cows imported from England in 1985.

The Times which highlighted the report said the discovery is likely to reinforce concern about live animals exported from the UK.

Earlier on the EEC decided to ban the import of live cattle aged more than six months.

No case of BSE has been diagnosed in animals younger than these, the paper noted.

Support for Palestinian aid fund requested

KUWAIT, Feb 3, (Kuna): Chairman of the Charity Committee in Support of Palestine and Lebanon Ahmad Al Falah today called for supporting the committee to collect Kuwaiti dinar one million (about \$3 million) in donations for assistance of Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

In an exclusive interview with Kuna, Falah said the fund-raising targets the establishment of productive and professional projects to engage unemployed Palestinian labourers.

It will be also of great help to those affected by the Israeli repressive measures of confiscation of lands and territories and families whose supporters are wounded or have died or arrested by the Israeli occupation authorities.

Falah said that the committee has received donations to support the steadfastness "of our brothers in the occupied territories", adding that \$2 million were sent to the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank in support of the intifada and \$3 million were used in supporting charity projects in occupied Palestine.

Inspection tour

BOARD chairman of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Sheikh Ibrahim Duaj Al Ibrahim inspected progress of work at the camel and sheep breeding project in Al Qurain area.

Sheikh Ibrahim also inspected some farms in Wafra agricultural area.

GCC common market

Unified customs tariff will fulfill aspirations

GCC assistant secretary-general for economic affairs Dr Abdullah Al Quwaiz has said that there is great hope that the programme endorsed by the GCC's Higher Council at the Muscat Summit last December will lead to the establishment of the Gulf Common Market.

He said that the steps taken in the economic field since 1983 have been able to consolidate the unification and integration of the GCC national markets adding that the volume of trading activities in the GCC which used to vary from 2 or 3 per cent to 10 per cent as registered during the years 1985/86 and 1987 has increased to 20 per cent.

He told a local daily that although the drop in the intra-GCC trading activity rate was due to the drop in oil prices caused by high demand, the trading volume in the region did not drop as the markets started implementing an inter dependent policy, while investment rates increased considerably.

He said that the interlinkage sought between the GCC was no longer impossible to reach and once the customs tariff is unified, it could be said that the sought after GCC Common Market would come into existence.

Quwaiz pointed out that the GCC finance ministers would during their forthcoming meeting on Feb 14 discuss steps towards more achievements within the framework of the GCC Joint Economic Pact to fulfill the aspirations for economic integration in the region.

He added that the expansion of the market and the increase in budgets of many countries in the region in addition to the unification of standards, improvement of the economic situation, halt of the

Iraq-Iran dispute, oil demand increase and production were factors contributing to the improvement of the economic situation and attracting investments.

He said that the GCC has great opportunity for investment in the region, besides the guarantees required for citizen investors to operate at home, adding that an agreement was signed June 1988 between the GCC and EEC identifying the field of co-operation between the two blocs and determining obstacles that need to be eliminated by joint efforts.

He said that a meeting would be held between the two parties in Muscat on March 17, which would be attended by the foreign ministers from both blocs, where discussion would centre on the inauguration of co-operation channels between the two blocs, and a number of committees and workteams would be formed to accelerate the co-operation tempo between both sides in certain areas.

A meeting for Gulf and European industrialists would be held in Grenada on Feb 19 for the exchange of views and discussion of the topical industrial issues pertaining to co-operation between the two sides, where 300 European industrialists would participate and 100 from the Gulf, mostly from the private sector, Quwaiz said.

He said that the meeting would centre on oil and petrochemical industries as well as major heavy and energy industry, such as steel and aluminium in addition to pharmaceutical industries.

In a related development a special symposium is to be held on Feb 27 and Feb 28, 1990 in Casablanca which will discuss the possibilities of exporting Arab countries contracts.

Glut in market lowers meat prices

THE price of meat in Kuwait was previously defined by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and to determine if merchants were abiding by these prices or not, a local daily interviewed a number of consumers and meat merchants.

Mutlak Al Basiri, a merchant said that he sold meat at prices less than the ministry's to attract customers. He said that he was selling each kilo at 550 fils, although the ministry defined the price at 750 fils.

Replying to a question whether he was incurring losses due to his selling for less than the official price, Basiri said: "There is no merchant who sells at a loss — only profits are reduced."

He went on to explain that some merchants sold meat without fat at KDI or more, but added that there is always the possibility that they could be cited by inspectors to be violators breaking the code of fixed prices.

Sabri Al Wakeel, a customer said that he preferred to purchase meat without fat or bones for which he paid between KDI 1.250 to KDI 1.500 per kilo. He said that he preferred to purchase his needs from the Shuwaikh market.

Ibrahim Maher another meat merchant said that most merchants were selling meat at prices below those stipulated due to the abundance of meat in the local market. Supply exceeds demand, he said.

He added that prices of Turkish meat are mostly fixed due to the scarcity of this kind of meat in the local market and in view of the increasing demand.

Meanwhile, a consumer said that he had purchased ten kilos of meat. However, after removing the fat the net weight came to seven kilos. In this respect, he said the official fixing of prices is circumvented and in fact the customer ends up paying more than the official price. He called on officials to take up the matter urgently and redress this situation. However, he commented that it is heartening to note that though the prices of all other commodities have increased, the price of meat has remained stable.

A meat importer Shabib Faraj said that prices of meat had been reduced in view of the increasing supply of meat in the local market from various sources. He said that the market is suffering a slump and huge losses might be incurred in the very near future.

Yusuf Ahmed, a customer said that some butchers were selling Chinese meat and claiming that it was Arabic or Turkish and said that many butchers do not seriously consider being apprehended for selling above the fixed price. He said that recently he had purchased calf meat at KDI 1.500 per kilo, although the official price was defined at 800 fils.

Alawi in Baghdad

MUSCAT, Feb 3, (Kuna): Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs Youssef Bin Alawi today left here for Baghdad on an official three-day visit to Iraq, during which he will hold talks with Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz.

Radio Muscat today quoted Bin Alawi as saying before departure that his visit to Iraq comes as part of consultations Oman conducts with fraternal Arab countries. Oman currently chairs the Gulf Co-operation Council and the Arab League.

He pointed out that his visit comes at an appropriate time for consultations on the current situation in the region and efforts exerted to establish peace and co-operation.

Aviation conference today

KUWAIT, Feb 3, (Kuna): All preparations for the holding of the second Arab Conference on Aviation Culture have been completed, assistant director of the public relations department at the Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) Ibtisam Al Abdul Razzak said.

The KAC official said the two-day conference is due to be held here tomorrow.

Abdul Razzak told Kuna that the conference is going to discuss the future challenges facing Arab aviation in the 90s and the best means for spreading aviation culture in the Arab world.

During the conference, lectures would be delivered by representatives of international airlines companies and Arab and foreign astronauts, the official said.

The chancery of the Embassy of Finland has moved.

The new address is: Surra, Block No.4, Street No.1, House No.8. Postal address is: P.O. Box 26699, 13127, Safat, Kuwait. Telephone No. 5312890, telefax 5324198 and telex 44948.

Bangladesh blanket drive extended to February 12

BANGLADESH Association has extended time up to 12th February 1990 for collecting blankets for cold wave victims of Bangladesh. Interested persons may donate their blankets to the Bangladesh Embassy premises, Khalidiyah.

First shipment of 208 blankets has been handed over to the Bangladesh Air Lines which will carry it without any cost.

The association's officials expresses its thanks and gratitude to all persons and establishments for their kind donation and help.



Houti tours markets

Minister of Public Works, Abdul Rahman Al Houti announced yesterday that the Amir Souk (market) in Kuwait City will be opened at the beginning of next month during the National Day celebrations. After touring the market yesterday, Houti said that the contractor promised to complete all construction work in one month's time.

The market consists of 84 shops, a dwaniya, two public cafes and a

post office. Houti said that the nature of the old market will be maintained as people with professions will be allotted the shops.

The minister also said that the ministry has received offers for the construction of the Gharaballi and vegetables, fruits, and fish markets in Kuwait City. He said that the allocations made for the construction are KD4.5 million.

Handwritten signature or stamp in Arabic script.

Official information channels impede research: experts

System for every Arab nation proposed

A NUMBER of information specialists and experts who participated in a seminar in Kuwait recently, stressed on the importance of official information to undertake scientific research and studies.

Nabila Hamza, a researcher at the information centre of Arab League in Tunis, said that the Arab world has appreciated the importance of official information, but, lacks bases of compilation and retrieval of such information.

Providing of official informations by Arab governments has strong political dimensions which often give false and misleading information and statistics in the Arab world are not subjected to scientific methods of accounting, Hamza said. Thus, Arab researchers will welcome accurate and undisguised information on which they can base their studies, she added.

Hamza said that Arab countries have demonstrated strong inclination to establish national policies for information and to establish information banks as well as documentation centres.

She said: "Each Arab country should institute a national system for information including establishment of an Arab information network."

Access

She added that Arab researchers face several problems in conducting research due to the large number of libraries, scattering of sources for obtaining official information,

documents and publications.

Also speaking on the issue, Iqbal Al Eithaimeen, information specialist at the National Information Centre of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) said that the centre can easily access information from USA and Europe through its connections with information banks in these countries. Paradoxically, she said that they face problems in getting information from Kuwait itself.

She added that ministries and

establishments in Kuwait are not obliged to deposit information in the centre. This leads to confusion in undertaking research and is a prime cause for overlapping of such research.

Survey

The centre undertook a field survey of ministries and establishments and reported defects in producing and storing of information and the seminar that was held at KISR was an effort to address these problems and suggest

recommendations.

She said that getting non-official information is far easier than obtaining it through official channels. She added that some officials justify their rejection to provide official information by claiming that such information is secret. "Information provided by the state should be authentic," Eithaimeen said and added that "ministries have now come to realise the importance of establishing information centres."

Also speaking on the subject, Dr. Rashed Al Uwaish, director of Public Health Department at the Ministry of Public Health said there has been a marked increase in concern from the beginning of 1980 to establish information centres. While there is sufficient information on birth and deaths, some problems are experienced in obtaining medical and health information and attributed this to be the reason many researchers fail in their attempts.

Saudis ban Thai workers

(Continued from Page 1)

prayers in a public square in the city of Damman.

The Saudi anger against Bangkok has been heightened by the fact that another embassy employee, Third Secretary Abdullah Al Malik, was assassinated a year earlier in the Thai capital and the Thai police have not come up with any clues to the murders.

The Saudi newspaper Asharq Al Awsat said in a report today that the same pistols that killed Malik were used in this week's murders. Quoting unidentified Thai police sources, the paper said that while witnesses claimed seeing an Arab-looking person shooting, the criminal may not necessarily be Arab.

Because the murdered Saudis were connected with visa processing, Thai police investigators this time as in the case of Malik believed that the assassination was carried out by local job placement agents frustrated over problems gaining entry visas for the kingdom.

Police are investigating a possible connection between the murder of the three and the killing of another Saudi diplomat a year ago, the interior minister said.

Police began a widespread search for two gunmen who yesterday shot dead the three diplomats. Two gunmen were responsible for the shootings and there were witnesses to both of them, although no arrests had been made. Lt Col Wibeon Bangham said.

Interior Minister Banham Sipha-Archa said on state-owned Radio Thailand that police were probing a link between the killings and that of Al Malik a year ago.

Al Malik was responsible for processing visa applications from tens of thousands of Thais who travel to work in Saudi Arabia each year.

His murder has not been solved but police investigators said at the time that some job placement agents were unhappy about Al Malik's strict application of regulations when processing visas for Thai workers.

Extra police were sent to Bangkok's Don Mueang airport yesterday to prevent any attempt by the killers to leave Thailand by air, security officials said.

They said the motive for the murders was not known, but he did not think they were politically inspired.

Thais, estimated at 140,000, make up one of the large foreign communities that are part of the three million-strong expatriate labour force in the kingdom. Thailand also enjoys good commercial and tourism ties with Saudi Arabia.

The deputy interior minister's statement would be a blow to the Thai labour market and the hard currency earnings of the Asian continent.

Despite the reports of a labour visa vendetta, neither the Thai police sources quoted in the Saudi papers nor the Saudi statements of condemnation have ruled out international terrorism.

Yacht search

AL SEYASSAH has reported that a number of citizens in Failaka island have started a campaign to search for the yacht "Al Siddiq" that disappeared on 20/1/1990 carrying three Jordanian nationals (two brothers and their brother in law). People of Failaka searched the sea area between Failaka island and Ayyaq area.

The father of two brothers believed that his sons and their brother in law lost their way and went to a neighbouring state. He appealed to officials in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran to respond to his calls and notify him about their fate.

Al Seyassah learnt that the Iranian embassy in Kuwait sent a cable to relevant authorities in Iran inquiring about the yacht and the three youths. The embassy is still waiting for the reply.

Accidents

ONE man died and thirteen others were injured in the course of eight traffic accidents which occurred yesterday in the country according to the Interior Ministry's Public Relations Department.

It added that one accident occurred at the Capital Governorate, one at Hawalli and six in Ahmadi.



Administrative course for police officers

Under the auspices of the undersecretary of the ministry of interior Major General Yusuf Bader Al Khorafi, the third administrative and financial training course was concluded yesterday at the premises of Police Officers Training Institute.

The graduation ceremony was attended by the assistant undersecretary for police affairs Major General Mohammed Al Qabandi, the assistant undersecretary at Kuwait Audit Bureau Salmaan Belal, the director general of police college Brigadier Khaled Al Munayes and a number of senior officials at the ministry.

The course was attended by 23 officers with three from the ministry of Defence and three from Yemen Arab Republic tested for six weeks.

The director of the police officers training institute Lieutenant Colonel Ibrahim Al Nghaimish made a speech at the ceremony in which he confirmed the importance of this training course for the upgrading of trainees in the police related activities.

In conclusion Major General Khorafi and Major General Qabandi distributed certificates to the graduates.

Pictures show Major General Khorafi and a senior official at the ministry of interior with the graduates above and giving away the certificates (below).

Philippines Embassy corner Things are looking up in RP economy

ON 25 January, Pres. Aquino marked her 57th birthday with a flying visit to Cebu to launch initial projects funded by the Philippine Assistance Programme (PAP), the multi-billion dollar International Aid Plan by the US to help boost Philippine economic recovery. The Samar projects consists of livelihood programmes designed by the Philippine Business for Social Progress and aligned with the P1 billion Samar Island Development Programme. The project involves sea-weed culture, iron-making, boat-building, and other fishing facilities. Aquino was joined by Ambassadors of at least 5 PAP-Donor Countries: the US, Canada, France, Australia, and Japan, as well as members of her Cabinet.

Pres. Aquino approved the setting-up of a P2.5 billion "Abot-Kaya Palangyan Fund" to be constituted thru a yearly funding of P300-million from the national government to promote construction of more low-cost houses to be available for low-income families in 14 regions of the country. In signing Republic Act No. 6346, she said that setting up of the Fund will make housing loans affordable thru interim amortization support. It will also generate low-cost housing thru development loans, and ensure continuity of housing loan programmes through the reduction of risks to lenders. Eligible borrowers will be granted housing loans with low amortization rates for the first five years.

EBC Commissioner Abel Marutes and DFA Secretary Manglapus signed the Financing Agreement for the Southern Mindanao Agricultural Programme (SMAP) representing the latest major EC development grant for the Philippines.

"The majority of American companies established in the Philippines have not changed their plans for expansion and new investments despite the bloody strife over last month," Mark Blacker, head of the American Chamber of Commerce said. Blacker said that in a recent survey of 68 member-companies, 48 said they had expansion plans before the coup bid and that 43 said they were still pushing through with these plans. He said this would lead to about P8.6 billion (US\$339 m) in new investments which would go mostly into manufacturing and trade.

"The country's electronic industry is today's fastest foreign exchange earner and is now among the top non-traditional exports," Andrew Sevilla, President of the Electronic Association of the Philippines reported. He said that export earnings from semi-conductors alone reached US\$12.07 billion in 1988 as against US\$72 million in 1976. Last year, the industry posted an 11.1 per cent increase in foreign revenues, bringing aggregate earnings to US\$919 million from the previous year's US\$827.46 million. The industry's remarkable showing can be attributed to the influx of electronics manufacturers into the country's export-marketing programme.

Pres. Aquino reduced the tariffs on imported buses and parts, motor vehicle spare parts, and shipping vessel parts in efforts to ease the transport problem. The president also announced the reduction of tariffs on farm machinery and inputs to bring down the production cost and increase productivity; and the reduction of tariffs on step-voltage regulators and power transformers to improve power service and lower power costs. Aquino said she lowered the tariffs on 104 items primarily on transport, through National Emergency Memo Order No. 8. She said the tariff cuts, averaging 10 per cent will be effective until June this year. The president said the lowering of the tariffs will ease the transport crisis by helping mass transport operators put more vehicles on the road and at sea.

The Board of Investments (BOI) approved the P3.2 billion project of Toyota for the manufacture in the Philippines of motor-vehicle transmissions mainly for export to Japan. The transmission plant, which is expected to be operational by 1992, is classified as an ASEAN industrial project. As such, its production will be subject to lower duties when exported to other Toyota car assemblers in the ASEAN region. According to Henry Moran, President of the Philippine Automotive Federation Inc., Toyota's P3.2 billion project is part of the P5 billion total investments committed by the participants to the country's Car-Development Programme for 1990. "The Toyota transmission plant will be set up outside Metro-Manila and would take at least 18 months to construct," Moran added. The project will be majority-owned by Toyota Motor Corporation of Japan with the local Toyota subsidiary, Toyota Motor Philippines owning at least 10 per cent of the equity.

The Board of Investments (BOI) has pledged its full

support to Norkis Trading Group (NTG) in achieving its goal to manufacture an all-Filipino motorcycle in the country by 1992. DTI Undersecretary Tomas Alcantara, concurrent BOI Vice-Chairman, said that adequate incentives will be given to Cebu-based motorcycle parts and components producers to accelerate the realization of a 100 per cent Filipino Motorcycle model by Norkis.

Ernesto Aboliz, National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR) President, said that the Philippines' energy supply is expected to stabilize with the completion of the ambitious nationwide energy interconnection by 1995. Aboliz said that the Negros-Panay interconnection will be completed in March this year, while the Cebu-Negros interconnection is due for completion in 1992. He also said that they are now negotiating for a loan with the World Bank to finance the Leyte-Luzon grid interconnection.

Aurelio Periquet Jr., President of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the visit of a month of top-level Japanese businessmen is an indication of renewed investors' confidence in the Philippines. Periquet said the decision of the Japanese group, led by top officials of the different private sector business groups in Japan, will lead to increased economic co-operation between Japan and the Philippines. He urged the government to launch more investment-promotion missions abroad to counter the "Wait-and-See" attitude of these foreign businessmen.

Three more big projects costing P204 million have been approved by the Board of Investments (BOI): production of hard gelatin capsules, production of steel, and expansion of tourist-transport facilities. Filinvest Industries Inc., classified under new pioneer status is putting up a P75 million venture to produce 560 million pieces of hard gelatin capsules per year. The firm will start its commercial operation in January 1991. The P67.55 million project to produce steel in Bulacan will be undertaken by Acutech Steel and Service Center Inc. which is 60 per cent owned by Filipino and 40 per cent by Japanese investors. The project, which is a joint venture with Acutech Steel and Service Center Inc., which is 60 per cent owned by Filipino and 40 per cent by Japanese investors, reported that despite the major economic and political disturbances which hit the country last year, securities-trading shot up by a hefty 131.5 per cent from sales of only P39 billion in 1988 to P90.2 billion. In a memo to the Commission through Associate Commissioner Armando Z. Gonzales, SEC's Securities Investment Specialist Dante C. Arbolio reported that the "upturn is traced to the renewed confidence of investors, both local and foreign, as indicated by the significant sales improvement in both the primary and secondary markets."

To fight poverty in the rural areas, the Philippines and the Federal Republic of Germany launched the "Integrated Development Project in Bonoc Peninsula." Secretary of Foreign Affairs Raul Manglapus and West German Amb. Peter Scholz signed the Technical Assistance Agreement for the first project phase which is scheduled for 3-1/2 years with the German contribution (grant) amounting to P72 million. The Integrated Development Project aims at improving economic, social and ecological conditions of the poor rural population groups in the region. Main feature of the project is the participation of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the project management and implementation.

Roberto Villanueva, Chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee of the Philippine Aid Plan (PAP) said that the Philippines is to receive US\$25 million in grant funds from the US Agency for International Development as part of Washington's contribution to a Multilateral Aid Plan (MAP) for Manila. Villanueva signed with US President George Bush's special representative Elliot Richardson, an agreement for US\$20 million in grant money for use in high-priority projects. Mr Richardson also signed a Co-operation Agreement with a non-government organization (NGO), the Economic Development Foundation, to establish a US\$5 million joint private-sector pre-investment facility.

About 30 per cent of foreign investors in the stock market who backed out after the aborted coup last December, have started to come back in the last three weeks, indicating that the Philippine economy is gradually picking. This was the assessment of both the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Investment House Association of the Philippines (IHAP) in a dialogue at the Club Filipino. Francisco Dizon, President of Anson Capital and Investment Corporation said that these investors are mostly Hong Kong-based Fund Managers which handle funds from Asia, Europe and the United States.

Cold wave damages crops in Abdalli area

TEMPERATURES at Abdalli agricultural area registered below zero which led to serious damage to tomatoes, plants and other agricultural produce due to irrigation water flowing into pipes and channels freezing despite many precautionary measures, Khalifa Al Banwan, the farmers representative said.

Interviewed by a local daily, he indicated that agriculture under Kuwait weather conditions is not an easy task. It requires planning, management and providing various types of support and assistance in order for the sector to continue developing. He added that in addition to weather factors, agricultural blights like the white fly and viruses have caused problems which have led to crops being damaged.

Banwan advised farmers to use smooth nylon windows in combating blight adding that this method has proved instrumental in combating the white fly. He urged farmers to benefit from the experiments of the agricultural authority, particularly new experiments which are being conducted currently. The new experiments conducted by the authority applied an adhesive type material on a yellow board which is hung inside plastic green houses. Such boards proved to be effective in attracting flies.

Banwan expressed hopes that the agricultural authority will exert efforts and more care in combatting blights also to provide farmers with adequate quantities of chemicals and agricultural tools. He called upon the authority to co-ordinate efforts with neighbouring states like Saudi and Iraq to set up joint plans to combat blight particularly insects.

He stressed the co-ordination between states has increased in importance gradually particularly in the fields of blights combating.

Competition

With respect to other problems which farmers are faced with, he stated that marketing of produce is considered one of the biggest problems due to the strong competition from imported agricultural products. He added that some of the neighbouring states pay huge sums of money to support their agricultural products, which makes locally produced commodities unable to compete.

He pointed out that some of the countries may export agricultural produce in order to obtain hard currency. Turkey and other countries belong to this category. He hoped that farmers here will receive more support from the government.

He indicated that the marketing of locally produced vegetables and fruits has been improved by local agricultural product companies but, they have as yet not recalled the ideal situation which all farmers look forward to.

Banwan stressed on the importance of imposing more taxes on imported products and proposed setting limits for qualities entering the country as a replacement resolution. He hoped that officials at the Co-operatives Union for Agricultural products will enter the marketing field in order to assist farmers.

Banwan pointed out that Abdalli agricultural area requires a branch for one of the banks in order for farmers to conduct transfers of salaries to their relatives outside Kuwait. He stated that the area requires, a dentist, and an eye specialist due to the vast increase in the number of workers and citizens particularly during official holidays.

GCC drug course

THE second training course for GCC drug prevention apparatuses started here yesterday and will last up to Feb 15, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported.

The agency quoted an official source saying that the training course which organised in co-operation with the French Interior Ministry will be attended by 26 officers representing the six member states of Gulf Co-operation Council.

No rise in power and water charges

Turkey water project found too expensive

THE Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) has no intention for the time being to increase prices of electricity and water and is committed to meet electricity requirements of all projects envisaged in the next five-year-plan, according to Abdullah Al Minayes, undersecretary at the MEW.

He added that the ministry is endeavouring to maintain uninterrupted water and power during peak summer months and all intermediate and secondary schools will be air-conditioned as of the next scholastic year.

The MEW reduced the costs of the Sibbiya Power Station project from KD350 million to KD304 million after "fine-tuning" technical specifications of the project. On completion, the Sibbiya power station will contribute significantly to strengthening the electrical network in Kuwait.

Further, the ministry has also agreed with the Petrochemical Industries Company to supply the power station with their needs of chloride for a period of ten years at a fixed price. This has contributed to reducing the cost of the project to KD300 million. These figures related to costs of mechanical and electrical works only and civil works and construction add up to another KD104 million, Minayes said.

Commenting on transportation of water by tankers instead of pipelines, Minayes said that these tankers are necessary at the present time to supply some areas which do not have a pipe network — mainly in the old housing areas. However, the ministry is seeking to provide other mode areas with water through the underground networks, according to the latest

technological methods.

He added that the ministry extends underground waterpipes for new buildings in old housing areas to reduce dependence on tankers. However, the process is gradual and it will be quite sometime before tankers can be seen as obsolete. He disclosed that many owners of buildings do not apply to have waterpipes connected to their buildings — although the network is near their buildings.

Commenting on the redness of drinking water in Kuwait, Minayes said that there are several factors which are causative agents — specially salts in water and temperature. The ministry has successfully overcome the problem at the Shuwaikh station that supplies housing areas between the 1st Ring Road and the 3rd Ring Road, including Kuwait City.

Contracts

The ministry signed two contracts recently to treat the problem in water produced by Western Doha Station and Zour Station. The projects will be completed by 1992 and the discolouration problems will be eradicated within the coming two years, Minayes said.

Commenting on the import of drinking water from Iraq and the power link project between Iraq and Kuwait, he said that consultants and ministry's staff have completed studies on the feasibility of importing water for domestic and irrigation purposes.

The final report to import 200 million gallons of water from the Shatt Al Arab for agricultural purposes is being discussed. Surveys and tests to extend waterpipes for agriculture will also be conducted. The power network and the supply of water

will be discussed with the forthcoming Iraqi delegation to Kuwait.

The official went on to explain that there are four fields for brackish underground water in Sulabiya, Shagaya, Umm Qadeer and Waifa with a total capacity of 100 million gallons a day which are used for irrigating gardens and plants along roads and house gardens.

He estimated underground water in Kuwait to be in the vicinity of 24 to 54 million cubic metres. The ministry is also carrying out several projects to increase daily production of brackish water to 210 million gallons a day by 1993 to meet the projected increase demand in brackish water, the official said.

He added that there are six water distilling stations in Kuwait that have a total production capacity of 254 million gallons a day. This covers the average of daily consumption of drinking water in Kuwait and the ministry is constantly striving to provide supplies of fresh water for citizens under any given circumstances.

The ministry built ground water reservoirs that have a total storage capacity of 1,888 million gallons and this capacity will be increased in the future to 2,620 million gallons. The ministry has also begun a project to change the present asbestos underground waterpipes with ductile pipes according to the latest specifications and these projects are to be carried out in four stages and to be completed in Dec 1993, Minayes said.

Commenting on the Peace Waterpipe Project to import water from Turkey, he said that the project was studied in-depth and in the final analysis it was found to be very expensive.

Qatari Amir, Mitterrand discuss ME peace process

PARIS, Feb. 3. (Kuna): The peace process in the Gulf, developments of the Middle East conflict and the situation in Lebanon, were among the main items of discussion between the Amir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani and President Francois Mitterrand yesterday.

In a written statement to the press after the 45 minute meeting, an official Qatari source said the two leaders stressed the need to exert more efforts to convert the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran into a comprehensive settlement as stipulated by Security Council Resolution 598.

Sheikh Khalifa, the statement said, reviewed with President Mitterrand the outcome of the tenth Gulf Co-operation Summit, especially those concerning Euro-Arab dialogue.

The two leaders also discuss the outcome of the Euro-Arab conference, which was held here in December by an initiative of President Mitterrand, underlining the need to continue the dialogue between the two groups.

On the Middle East conflict, the statement said France and Qatar have a convergent point of view on the need for convoking international peace conference to be attended by all concerned parties, including the PLO.

"The two sides express support to the contacts meant to reconcile Palestinian and Israeli stands through dialogue to take place in Cairo and to be prepared in Washington in a meeting between foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and the US," the statement said.

The Amir of Qatar, it added, explained the recent plots by Israel to implant Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip.

The two sides called on all Lebanese parties to settle their conflicts in the spirit of the Taif Agreement in the framework of the legal authority in order to restore the sovereignty and unity of their country.



Mitterrand (r) with the Amir of Qatar during their meeting at the Elysee Palace.

Kuwait praised

KUWAIT, Feb. 3. (Kuna): Minister of Defence of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen Brigadier Saleh Obeid has praised the historical relations with Kuwait that have developed in different spheres.

Speaking to "Homat Al Watan" magazine of the Kuwaiti armed forces, Saleh said results of his talks here, which took place last month, were positive and of great success and have accomplished their goals in the military and other fields.

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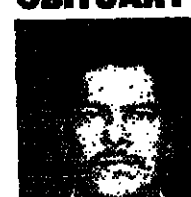
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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

HISTORY is, indeed, little more than the register of the crimes, follies and misfortunes of mankind — Edward Gibbon, English historian (1737-1794).

US forces in Asia, Pacific

Reductions to be measured

MANILA, (Reuters): The United States has begun reducing force levels in Asia and the Pacific, but the disengagement will be measured and more gradual than in Europe, diplomats and defence analysts say.

"I would expect from the United States that adjustments of our military presence in the area would take place very moderately and in very close consultation with our friends and allies in the region," said Stephen Bosworth, a former US ambassador to the Philippines and current president of the US-Japan Foundation.

"Whatever happens, one does not want to abruptly leave a vacuum in the region, because such a vacuum could be perceived by both foreign and domestic investors as a potential source of instability," Bosworth said during a visit to Manila this week.

Cuts

US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney will visit Japan, South Korea and the Philippines during a trip from February 11-23 to discuss with allies possible cuts in US forces in the region.

Diplomats said these could include the withdrawal of marines from Japan and some troops from South Korea and the eventual closure of the large Clark Air Base in the Philippines.

Talks on the future of Clark and the US naval base at Subic Bay in the Philippines are scheduled to begin in March or April. Some members of the Philippine Senate are urging either a phase-out or immediate removal when the US lease expires in September, 1991.

Washington regards Clark and Subic, its two largest military bases outside US soil, as playing a crucial role in the defence of the Indian and Pacific Ocean regions. It wants the lease on them extended, if possible for at least 10 years.

Plan

"Anything less than 10 years makes it difficult to plan and appropriate funds for necessary improvements," said US Congressman Jim Kolbe, a member of the House appropriations military construction subcommittee who visited Clark and Subic last month.

The United States currently has about 50,000 troops and servicemen stationed in Japan, 45,000 in South Korea and 14,700 in the Philippines, according to US figures.

Cheney has announced that US Air Force operations at three South Korean-controlled bases will end by mid-1992 and more than 2,000 servicemen will be withdrawn from there as part of worldwide budgetary cuts in US defence spending.

Technical improvements will also mean a reduction in some personnel at Clark and a naval communications centre at San Miguel in the Philippines, according to US ambassador in Manila, Nicholas Platt.

Minor

But the cuts are minor compared to the radical troop reductions proposed by President George Bush in Europe. Cheney was quoted by Tokyo media as telling a senior Japanese defence agency official that the United States has no plans to cut forces in Japan, the Pentagon's regional command.

Before Cheney's Asian tour, the Soviet Ambassador to the Philippines, Oleg Solovkov, urged the United States to respond to unilateral Soviet force reductions in Asia, including withdrawal of MiG 23 fighters and TU-16 long-range bombers from the Soviet base at Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam.

He said in a speech to Filipino businessmen that the Soviet Pacific fleet had been cut by 57 ships and submarines between 1984 and 1989 and called on the United States to agree to talks on reducing forces at sea.

Referring to the series of US military bases across the Pacific rim, Solovkov said that "the rationale for keeping the huge network of military presence in the area set up at the height of the cold war, which is no longer there, is rapidly eroding."

Capability

US officials respond by saying the Soviet attack capability in the Pacific has not diminished and that US forces in the region are there to help allies and not just to defend US interests against the Soviet Union.

Kolbe, at a recent briefing for reporters in Manila, noted the build-up of Indian naval strength and said there was a continuing threat from countries like China and Vietnam as well as the Soviet Union.

Asian diplomats said Japan and several Southeast Asian countries would not welcome a radical reduction in US presence in the region.

Singapore has offered to host some US military facilities if they cannot remain in the Philippines.

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Mayumi Morioka said on Wednesday that Tokyo might voluntarily increase spending on US troops stationed in Japan. Japan already pays half the cost for the 50,000 US troops there.

South Korean officials said cuts other than those already announced are bound to follow. (But) the US realises that what is happening in Europe cannot be carbon-copied in Asia," said a senior government official in Seoul.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1534 — France's King Francis I conquers Savoy and occupies Turin, also signs French alliance with Turkey's Sultan Suleiman I.
- 1585 — France's King Henry III refuses sovereignty of the Netherlands.
- 1783 — Hostilities end between United States and England.
- 1874 — British forces under Garnet Wolseley burn Kumasi, Ghana, ending Ashanti war.
- 1899 — Filipinos stage revolt against United States because independence is not granted.
- 1922 — Japan agrees to restore Shantung to China.
- 1938 — Germany's Adolf Hitler assumes office of war minister and names Joachim von Ribbentrop as foreign minister.
- 1948 — Ceylon becomes self-governing dominion in British Commonwealth.
- 1961 — Terrorist attacks break out in Portuguese African territory of Angola.
- 1969 — China's Charge d'Affaires in Netherlands, Liao Ho-Shu, arrives in United States and requests political asylum.
- 1972 — Britain and nine other nations recognise East Pakistan as independent nation of Bangladesh.
- 1973 — Jordan's King Hussein rules out hostilities with Israel and says he will seek US president Richard Nixon's help in easing crisis in Middle East.
- 1986 — Group of hard-line Arab leaders, meeting in Libya, threaten anti-American violence "within the United States and throughout the world."
- 1989 — UN Security Council is asked to extend UN Iran-Iraq military observer group through September 30.



Demonstrators hold up placards after the announcement unbanning the ANC. (Reuters wirephoto)

Reform dividends start to flow in De Klerk crosses the Rubicon Gestures still fall short

CAPE TOWN, (Reuters): President F.W. de Klerk has crossed the Rubicon of apartheid reform that defeated his predecessor and the rewards are already beginning to flow in.

De Klerk began his speech to Parliament on Friday to make the concessions that his autocratic predecessor, P.W. Botha, could never bring himself to make.

Speaking on the first anniversary of his election as leader of the ruling white National Party and after six months as president, De Klerk unbanned 36 opposition groups including the African National Congress (ANC).

Reforms

He also promised to free black nationalist Nelson Mandela from jail soon and announced a range of reforms that have long been demanded by South Africa's 27 million non-white blacks.

De Klerk appeared largely to meet the international expectations that Botha disappointed in August 1985, when he said in a disastrous speech that he had "crossed the Rubicon."

The world judged that Botha had in fact turned back at the Rubicon and his speech set the South African rand tumbling against world currencies and prompted international banks to call in loans to South Africa.

Debilitating economic sanctions followed as Botha continued to resist real political reform and hundreds of foreign companies withdrew from South Africa.

Botha's Rubicon speech became the turning point of his 10-year career and resulted eventually in his defeat last year by De Klerk, who has proved to be a more courageous reformer.

Rubicon

"I think De Klerk has crossed the Rubicon. He has certainly gone right out into the deep," said Professor John Barratt of Johannesburg University's Institute for International Affairs.

"There is going to be very wide applause. It is going to have a very positive effect on South Africa's international relations," he said.

Western diplomats acknowledged that De Klerk had gone much further than any of them expected and said their governments would be obliged now to support his reform initiatives.

"This speech demands a response both from the West and from the ANC, which is going to have to revise its tactics," one diplomat said.

Anti-government cleric Archbishop Desmond Tutu commended De Klerk for his courage in instituting reform.

"I want to give him very considerable credit. He has not given us everything, but he has gone a very long way along the road," Tutu told a news conference.

Barratt said he expected the US administration would re-examine its anti-apartheid sanctions and hold off on further economic measures against Pretoria.

European governments might be slower to repeal exist-

ing measures against apartheid, but they would have to review plans for further punitive restrictions on trade with South Africa.

He said British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher probably would accept an invitation to become the first Western head of government to visit South Africa since 1960.

Thatcher has already invited De Klerk to Britain for talks and accolades have started to pour in from Europe and Africa, with Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda complementing him on "a job well started."

Kaunda is the head of southern Africa's important

TransAfrica director Randall Robinson.

Nevertheless, Robinson added, "we must keep sanctions in place and demonstrate a willingness to go even further if the De Klerk government refuses at any point to follow through on their commitment to negotiate with the black majority."

De Klerk's liberalising steps also opened the door to negotiations between the black majority population and the white minority-led government.

Pressure

In an effort to pressure South Africa toward settling its system of racial segregation, Congress, after a bitter partisan fight, in 1986 passed the sanctions over then-president Ronald Reagan's veto.

They included a ban on new loans to the South African government and South African businesses, a ban on imports of South African iron, coal, steel, uranium and textiles, a ban on exports to South Africa of crude oil, petroleum products and weapons and bans on US and South African airlines landing in each other's countries.

Bush has opposed efforts to add to those sanctions, saying the ones in effect did not work.

But since taking office he and his

top aides have expressed interest in forging a more bipartisan policy.

Last October, his administration admitted sanctions helped stimulate "new thinking" in Pretoria and said it would look at tougher penalties unless De Klerk — who had recently taken office — took action to end apartheid by June 1990.

Optimistic

From the beginning, US officials were optimistic De Klerk would be a new kind of leader.

But State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler, while praising his offer of negotiations as courageous, said he still had not fulfilled the criteria stipulated by Congress for the president to lift sanctions.

These include the release of Mandela and all other political prisoners, and — even to ease restrictions partially — meeting three of four conditions: repeal of the sunset registration law, unbanning of political organisations and the lifting of restrictions on political activity, repeal of the Group Areas and Population Registration Act, agreement to enter into good faith negotiations with truly representative members of the black majority without preconditions.

All four must be met to lift sanctions totally.

frontline nations — six black countries championing Africa's fight against South Africa's white minority rule.

Mandela's wife, Winnie, a prominent activist in her own right, said after hearing about De Klerk's speech: "We are not prepared to accept a bone with no meat."

She said De Klerk should have ended the three-year-old national state of emergency and 40 years of enforced racial segregation.

But young blacks in Cape Town and Johannesburg appeared to differ as they took to the streets in a spontaneous celebration that was not seen even when De Klerk released several top ANC leaders from prison late last year.

Geagea battles for survival

BEIRUT, (Reuters): Lebanon's Christian warlord Samir Geagea is battling for survival in east Beirut's shell-blasted streets.

After seizing the leadership of the Lebanese Forces militia in a bloody coup against his former friend Eusebio Hobeika in 1986, Geagea turned the LF into the strongest private army in Lebanon.

All, moustachioed man constantly surrounded by bodyguards, Geagea's state-within-a-state policies have run head on into those of his arch-Christian rival, army General Michel Aoun.

Aoun considers himself the only legitimate strongman and tax collector in the Christian enclave.

The general's attempts to disarm and disband the LF led this past week to some of the most vicious battles witnessed in Beirut in 15 years of civil war. At least 145 people have been killed in three days of inter-Christian fighting.

"If the operation is to wipe out the LF, this will not happen and I will not allow it to happen," Geagea said.

Until September 1988 when Aoun was named to run an interim government, Geagea, 37, was master of the enclave, levying taxes from ports and residents and introducing social schemes ranging from funding heart surgery and school books to running a fleet of buses.

Built

Geagea built up the LF into a 10,000-strong force backed by 200 tanks, heavy artillery and support weapons to counter the Muslim threat but the guns were turned inward when the two Christian leader's differences proved irreconcilable.

Geagea infuriated Aoun by refusing to support him against the Syrian-backed, internationally-recognised government of President Elias Hrawi.

Outgoing president Amin Gemayel named Aoun as interim leader in 1988 after parliament failed to elect a new head of state.

Although Geagea advocates replacing Lebanon's current confessional system with a federal one, he has not publicly opposed an Arab-sponsored peace pact rejected by Aoun.

The general, starved of funds by his Muslim foes in west Beirut who control the Central Bank, also turned covetous eyes on the militia's tax income, estimated at \$50 million a year.

Until Aoun's rise to power, Geagea was for many of the enclave's 900,000 Maronite Christians their only hope against feared domination by Syria which has 40,000 troops in Lebanon.

But Geagea has lost popularity to the charismatic Aoun, whose hardline stance against concessions and the Syrians has won him the hearts and minds of Maronites who believed their community to be under threat of the more numerous Muslims.

Geagea's polite manners belie his reputation as a hardened warlord intent on keeping power regardless of the consequences.

His followers call him the doctor, a concession to his years as a medical student, although he left the

American University of Beirut before graduating.

One of Geagea's former teachers said the militia chief's ideal was to be "an all-knowing commander, truthful... courageous to the most extreme limits."

"Despite what they say about his violence, he was always the perfect gentleman," the teacher added.

Geagea steadily increased his authority following the 1982 assassination of the charismatic Bashir Gemayel, who founded the LF out of disparate Christian militias.



Geagea (L) and Aoun: battling it out

Letters to the editor

Appalling statement

SIR: I have read with considerable dismay a news item that appeared in your newspaper under the heading, "Pakistanis urged to help poor back home."

Although I have no reasons to doubt the good intentions of the president of the Pakistan People's Club, Kuwait, and the learned gathering of the members, the statement that was issued is outrageously appalling.

It is quite obvious that the association president and its members have explicitly demonstrated a complete absence of the knowledge of progressive democratic trends in contemporary sociolinguistic politics. The present-time tendency is to avoid and discard the use of all such words that imply an inequality of power-relations among people and are basically degrading in connotation. For example, the use of the word "servant" is not permissible in sophisticated and mature discourse; it has been substituted for by the phrases "domestic helper." The idea is to emphasise the function of a person rather than the negative social stigma that we so emphatically attach to certain groups of people in a society.

Considering this perspective, it is inexcusable for the president of the People's Club in Kuwait to use the term "poor Pakistanis". It would have been acceptable if the club president had used the phrase "economically deprived people of Pakistan". Such a term would stress the elements of "deprivations" (they can be deliberate or the result of continued political mismanagement) rather than the egotistical emphasis of socio-economic differences and the accompanying inevitable superiority-inferiority complexes. Words are important; they are the mirror-reflections of human thoughts and feelings. Progressive and sensitive people reading the news in question may justifiably conclude that the Kuwaiti People's Club and its president are still out-of-touch with a proper perspective on Pakistani poverty and its complex intrinsic elements. Considering the contents of the statement, such socio-economic is not far-fetched.

Noor's summation of a good service from the country as well as Islam is also extremely commendable. It suffers from a similar lack of understanding of the Islamic political ideal. Islam postulates a welfare state (Iddaratul Ahsan) to state, the relations amongst different socio-economic groups are based on equality, particularly so in the area of psychological parameters. The focus is on the help (ta'awun) (ideology); that spontaneous differences among people must not lead to the psychology of superiority and inferiority. Consequently, it is the state's responsibility to care for the economically deprived and needy people. The essence and the undercurrents of this notion are to make sure that an Islamic society does not directly create groups or institutions of the "givers" and the "receivers"; that would be directly contrary to Islamic norms. It is in this context that the notion of zakat makes the most humanistic sense. The "receivers" benefit directly from the state's institutional fund and are not subjected to a loss of integrity and dignity. Neither do the "givers" feel morally superior, elevating their "ego" perniciously and preposterously.

Charity is forbidden in Islam; the origin of charitable organisations was conceived in the reactionary colonial mind with the aim to humiliate natives. It is the concept of generosity that is fundamental to Islamic teachings with explicit forbiddance to indulge in ego elevation. The charity that Noor seems to be advocating, or at least in the manner it is being advocated, is too close to the ego elevation syndrome to be considered seriously in this time and age. It is simply outdated and undignified. In addition, Noor has not identified what kind of long-term or permanent economic institution is likely to emerge out of this suggestion. With no offence to the People's Club and its officials, this seems like an indulgence in the usual rhetorical redundancy — an attempt at looking good and noble. Words do not resolve national problems; serious thinking does. People have to get short on rhetoric and long on deeds.

Another problem with the Pakistan People's Club statement is the call for the unity of all Pakistanis. It is not clear what is intended by this call. Democracy is not politically partisan by its nature; the fundamental notion in democratic cognition is the flourishing elements of diversity, both in ideals and ideas as well as in the fundamental political infrastructure at various levels of society. I see no reason why all Pakistanis must belong to one particular political association or units under one specific social or political leadership. In fact, diversity can greatly enrich and enhance the process of political maturity for Pakistan, given the assumption that all groups and their respective members maintain respect for others and allow each other freedom of expression. My feelings are that Noor's position is that leadership for the Pakistani community in Kuwait must be consolidated in one identity. Quite frankly, there are no justifiable grounds for this kind of demand.

It is hoped that the Pakistani embassy staff will continue to serve the Pakistani public and not assume a bi-partisan political role.

Dr Haidar Mohi, Kuwait University.

5-day week

SIR: Now that the government is talking about the 5-day work week I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for the idea.

There are several good reasons for the adoption of this practice. By simply adding about 45 minutes to the work day, families could have more time to relax and enjoy each other. For the modern Kuwaiti family where both parents have work outside the home and children have studies and outside activities there is precious little time together.

As a working mother I would rather be home with my children Thursday morning and I'm willing to make the sacrifice necessary. As for my husband who works two jobs 6 days a week, he wants to spend time with us and yet he needs time to himself for personal activities and we still have to keep up with the in-laws. We all know the social scientific findings in the importance of fathers role in family life for well behaved and happy children.

It's time for the change. I call upon the responsible authorities to vote yes to the 5-day work week for the health and happiness of the Kuwaiti family.

Celiste Snyder Kuwait

Handwritten signature: J. Al-Najjar

SRI LANKA NATIONAL DAY

AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT

Sri Lanka - Kuwait relations

Looking ahead to extending goodwill

SRI LANKA-Kuwait relations could not be totally isolated from the broad spectrum of Sri Lanka-Arab world relations. The legend has it that trading communities, pearl divers and fishermen from the Arabian Peninsula arrived in "Serendib" from very early times. The word "Serendib" is the Arabic word for Sri Lanka, which reflects the very intimate relationship which existed between Sri Lanka and the Arab world.

Serendib gave the English Language a word "Serendipity" meaning the "faculty of making happy and unexpected discoveries by accident" after the story of the three princesses of Serendib. Some of the Arabs who arrived in Serendib made it their home, and according to historical evidence a branch of the Sri Lanka-Muslims came from the Arabian Peninsula. The much known story of Ibn Batuta the Arab explorer of (1304-1377 AD) landing in the southern coast of Sri Lanka is one of the landmarks in the ethno-history of Sri Lanka. Ibn Batuta even undertook pilgrimages to Sri-pada (Adams Peak) making Sri Lanka a site of religious veneration for Arabs.

The Sri Lankans, too, may have travelled along the famed Silk Route both overland and by sea, to the Arab world in the days, when it was an important trading centre with the Orient, China, Africa, India and Sri Lanka. The British who had their influence in the major part of Asia, in the 18th and 19th centuries engaged themselves in bilateral trade between the Arabian Peninsula and the countries in South Asia. From

the early part of the 18th century, the commercial ties of the Arab world with Sri Lanka were on a barter basis.

A relationship based on trade, commerce and ethnic-religious and linguistic exchanges developed, over the years, to one of singular-relations with the emergence of different states in the Arabian Peninsula, Kuwait being one of them.

During Sheikh Mubarak's reign in Kuwait warehouses and customs facilities were made and this enhanced the import of spices, pearls, precious stones and coffee from Sri Lanka. There is evidence that, since the early permanent settlements in Kuwait, there have been trading between the two countries in spices, incense, coffee, vegetables and gems while periodically fishermen who were well-versed in pearl diving went to Sri Lanka for pearl fishing. The elderly Kuwaitis, used to relate stories of the adventures of their old generations in pearl diving in the north-western coast of Sri Lanka and the east coast of Sri Lanka. There were trading missions which called on the Kotte and the Kandyan Kingdoms from the Arabian world. Although there is no mention of Kuwait in them these missions influenced the trade in general with Kuwait.

Since the early part of the 19th century, when Sri Lanka was not independent and the State of Kuwait a protectorate, the relations between the two countries were mainly governed by the foreign rulers. However, with the assistance of Muslims in Sri Lanka the trade between the two countries kept pace, and, the religious ties in



existence. The Arabic language and the study of the Holy Quran were other factors in common with the Muslims and the Kuwaiti society.

Relations between the two countries under the foreigners received a boost with the exploration of oil in Kuwait in early 20th century.

When Kuwait won independence, Sri Lanka was one of the first countries to recognise her, strengthening the existing ties. The development of the bilateral ties was accelerated with independence and there were visits of the ministers to both countries.

Sri Lanka became an impor-

tant member of the Non-Aligned Movement and she hosted the 5th summit in Colombo, in 1976, and Kuwait was one of the 86 countries, represented at this summit. Sri Lanka was one of the countries which always backed the Arab cause and this stance was one of the reasons for Kuwait's special relationship. Sri Lanka's dynamic foreign policy and her support of the Palestinian struggle was another factor in this strong bond. Successive governments followed a steadfast policy of support of the Arabs in general, and Palestine in particular.

Support

The government of Sri Lanka severed connections with the Israelis in 1972 and allowed the setting up of a Palestine Liberation Organisation office in Colombo. This office was later upgraded to an embassy, and the government has categorically stated their unequivocal support for the Palestinian statehood. Sri Lanka is one of the first countries to recognise the State of Palestine. This policy is a common bond between Sri Lanka and Kuwait.

At the United Nations and the Non-Aligned meetings the two countries have followed a common stand on most issues, both countries being in the Third World. Both countries have supported the North-South dialogue and the South-South dialogue.

In keeping with this policy, Kuwait government has given aid to Sri Lanka, mainly the irrigation projects, the Mahaweli, through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

With the oil boom in the petroleum exporting countries, and, especially in Kuwait, there

were tremendous infrastructural development projects. Sri Lankans were quick to take this opportunity, to arrive in Kuwait to take up employment. The close foreign policy was one of the reasons for the employment of Sri Lankans in all these sectors.

The first Sri Lankan professionals to be employed in Kuwait took up assignments in the banking and commercial sectors. They contributed vastly to calve these economic nerve centres. Then came the medical, academic, engineering, agricultural and technical professionals. Since 1950 these

professionals though few in number held very responsible posts in the State of Kuwait. Since the latter part of the 1970s, other categories started to arrive in Kuwait, swelling the Sri Lankan population considerably.

The bilateral trade which was at a low-ebb developed with the better understanding between the two countries. Since 1975 while Sri Lanka continued importing gas and oil, Kuwait was importing tea, spices, vegetables, desiccated coconut, coir products and ceramic tiles among other commodities.

The political leadership of both countries have visited each other's country and trade and investment delegations too have done so during the past fifteen years.

The establishment of an Embassy of Sri Lanka in the State of Kuwait in 1982 was a landmark in this long-standing relationship.

The two countries are now looking forward to extend the goodwill built, to other areas to further strengthen the already existing ties.



Message from H.E. the President R. Premadasa

TODAY, the February 4, 1990, is the 42nd anniversary of Sri Lanka's national independence. Four decades is not a great length of time, especially in relation to our record history of well over 2,500 years. However, what is more important is that these years of independence have been very eventful. We have, in this time, stabilised and promoted a democratic system of government. We have tried to give our people a better and more fulfilling life.

Sri Lanka is a country of great natural beauty with a long cultural heritage. We are rich in resources. The island's cross-road location is one of its major assets. Its human resources are abundant. Its hinterland is diverse. The country's economy remains open and receptive to foreign investment. In infrastructure, development in the past decade has been of an unprecedented magnitude.

In her modern history, Sri Lanka has gone through many trials and tribulations. Some of them have been self-inflicted; others have been inflicted externally. Yet, we have endured and prevailed. Our very survival proves the vitality and the viability of the Sri Lankan state. It is also evidence of the resilience of our democratic, political and social order.

We expect the 1990s to be Sri Lanka's decade of development. The political and economic foundations for such progress have already been laid. Despite our difficulties of the past, Sri Lanka sustained an annual growth rate of about 5 per cent over the past decade. This is evidence of our commitment to growth and our promise for the future.

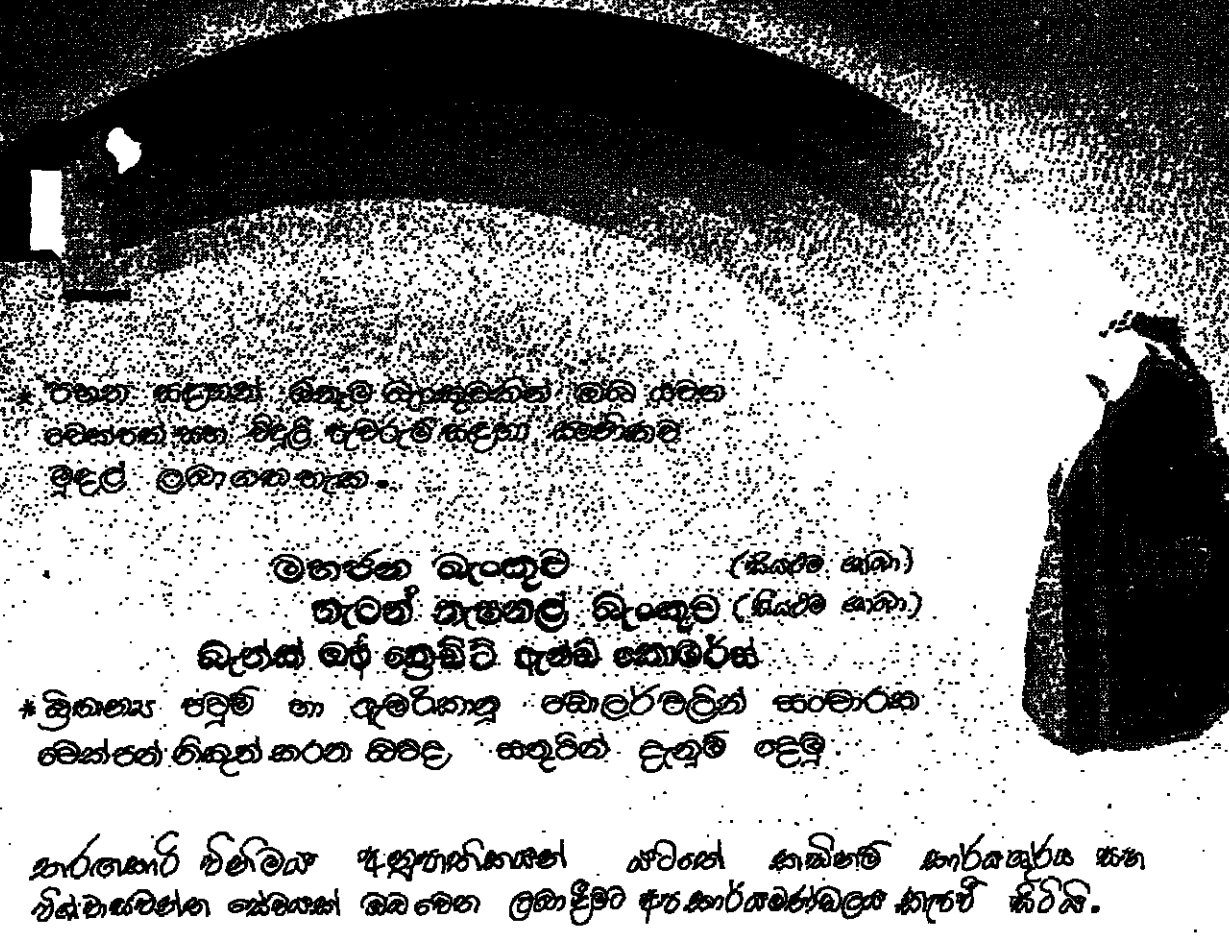
All the present indications suggest that peace and normalcy will return to Sri Lanka during this year. I am confident that very soon there will be an end to the disruptions of past year. All our people have realised that if Sri Lanka is to develop and prosper, disruption and destruction must end. And so, we are now on the threshold of renewal.

In this renewal, we welcome the participation of everyone. The nation we are rebuilding will be strong, just and provide opportunities for those who work for and invest in our effort. The partnership we seek will join Sri Lankans at home and abroad with the best of foreign technology and capital. In this way, we plan to move ahead into the 21st century.

As we celebrate our National Day, I wish the Sri Lankans everywhere peace and prosperity.

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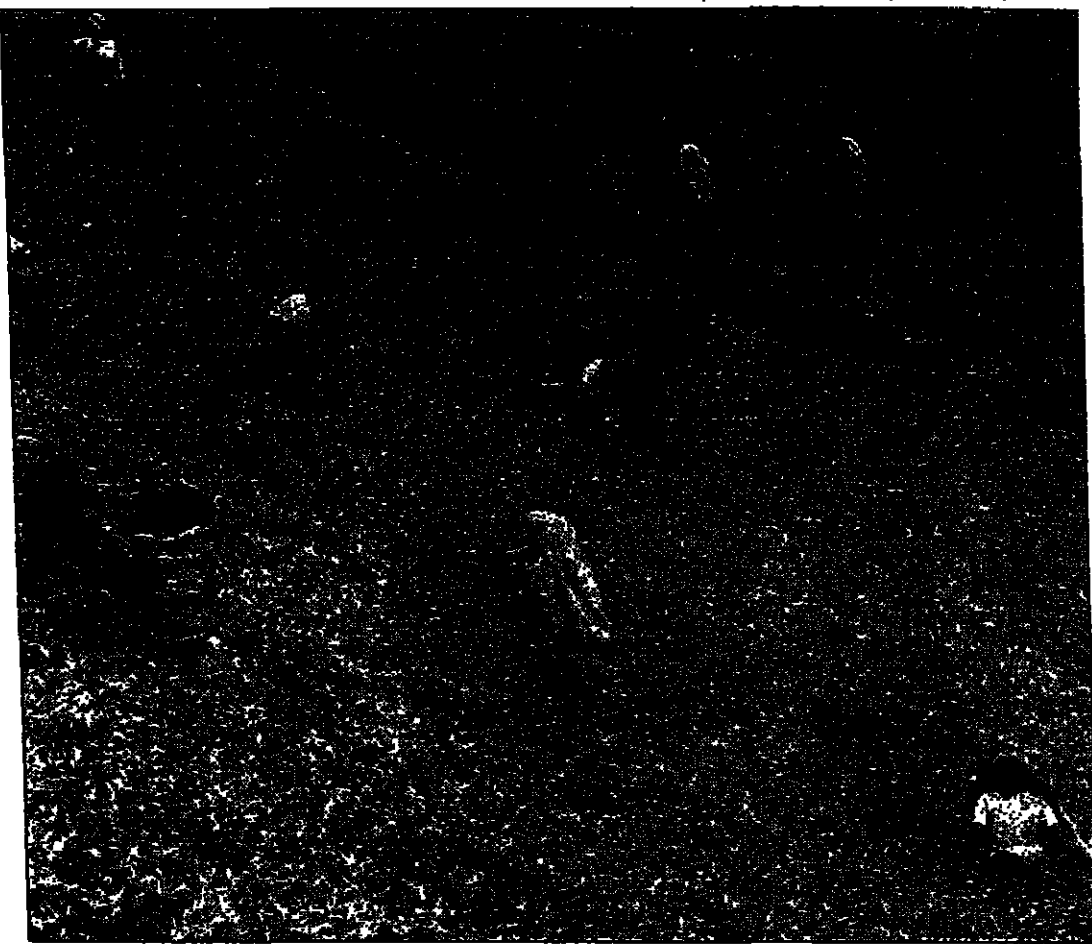
AMONG the many records to its credit Sri Lanka can claim to produce the finest teas in the world, as well as to be the world's leading exporter, a fascinating subject, tea-growing in Sri Lanka began a little over a century ago, introduced during the British colonial era, as an afterthought to coffee, ravaged by a pest which could not be controlled.

Today, with more than half a million acres under the crop, and a daily output of around a million pounds of manufactured tea a day, it is Sri Lanka's main export and source of foreign revenue.

James Taylor pioneered commercial tea-growing in Sri Lanka in 1867, on remote and lovely Looeacandura. Like his sturdy motherbushes, tea has survived many sore trials — among them diseases such as blister blight tea tortrix as well as periodic price slumps.

A tree camellia, (botanically, *camellia sinensis*) tea needs a subtropical climate and sloping terrain. Mutations in flavour and strength record nuances in altitude, soil, rain and sun and tea, like whiskey varies from glen to glen. The abundant rain and sunshine of the foothills of Sri Lanka produces luxuriant growth but diffuses flavour. These low and medium-grown, teas are useful, in the jargon of the trade, as 'fillers' in blends.

In the high sierra, brilliant sunshine, cold nights, seasonal dry



Women picking tea at an estate in Sri Lanka

winds and the nursing of mists, retard growth but conserves and distills an unmistakable and

intimable flavour in the leaves. These are the precious, aromatic high-grown teas of Nuwara

Eliya, Dimbula and Uva, which have spread the fame of 'Ceylon' teas (the tea industry still uses Sri

Lanka's former name as it has a strong identity) in the bonded warehouses and auction rooms of Mincing Lane, the London head-quarters of the international tea trade.

Tea is grown in some of Sri Lanka's dramatically beautiful areas — tea 'estates' as the plantations are called, especially in the higher elevations are extremely scenic. Cloudcrowned mountains, deep valleys and dizzy chasms; pure, cool scented air and always close at hand, the music of falling water. Graceful grevilleas and gums planted for shade and wind-break and drifts of colourful wild-flowers that defy the most determined of weeder. Neat ticky tacky processing factories which give out a strong and fragrant aroma from the toasting leaves and stretching endlessly, the green tea bushes, contoured carefully to valley and spur.

Tea is grown from seed or from cuttings made from pedigree mother-bushes and is contour planted to anchor the top-soil. The bushes are stunted to a workable height by hard pruning. The tender terminal shoots (two leaves and a bud) are picked in a ten-day rotation, usually by Tamil women-pickers (much of the labour force on tea-estates are Tamils of South Indian stock), who, with their bright saris and shoulder-baskets have become a kind of trademark of the tea industry.

Message from Hon D.B. Wijetunge, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

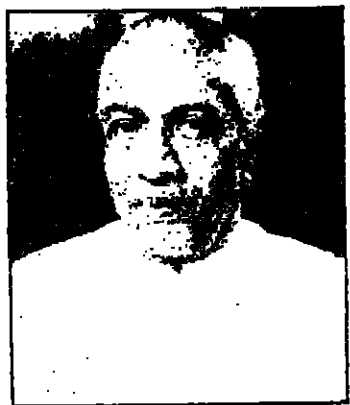
ON THE 4th of February this year, we will be celebrating once again our National Day. Under the inspiring leadership and guidance of his Excellency R. Premadasa, President of Sri Lanka we face the coming years with confidence.

One of the great achievements for which all of us can take credit is our continued adherence to the principle of democratic freedom. Our conduct of the presidential and parliamentary general elections showed clearly to the whole world our people's commitment to the rule of law and sovereignty of the people.

We have also during this period continued the process of coming to an understanding on many national issues with people whose views differed from ours, by way of consultation, compromise and consensus.

A significant milestone in this process has been our success in bringing back into the democratic mainstream sections of the movements and forces that had abandoned their faith in democracy in the recent past.

We have been able during the past year to devote a great deal of our energy to the task of economic development of our country.



While paying particular attention to the economic development of the country we have also not forgotten our social and moral obligations. The government has shown its concern for the welfare and happiness of the backward and the less fortunate sections of our people. The poverty alleviation programme of His Excellency R. Premadasa President of Sri Lanka, to which the country has dedicated itself and which is now receiving worldwide recognition and acclaim, will go a long way, in the reduction of poverty in our country. The disadvantaged sections of our people will be contributing to the nation's wealth instead of being a drain on it.

I should also like on this occasion to say how thankful we are to the thousands of Sri Lankans now living abroad and who have shown such great consideration for the welfare of our people. We are also grateful to the many friendly countries that have given us assistance and shown us their goodwill.

With the trust and confidence in ourselves and the goodwill of others, I am certain that we can face the challenges in the future with courage and hope.

Let us therefore resolve to rededicate ourselves on this day to serve our motherland to the best of our ability.

Message from Hon. Ranjan Wijeratne, Minister of foreign affairs

"A YEAR has passed since the government headed by H.E. the President R. Premadasa has been in office. Significant changes and advances have been made in the manner in which the new administration has functioned. In the sphere of Sri Lanka's overseas representation, a major change has been made to restructure our orientation to bring trade and investment promotion under the supervision of our missions abroad.



"Within Sri Lanka the past year has been a period of trial. However, the threat posed to democracy has been contained. The people of Sri Lanka responded wholeheartedly to the government's call to restore normalcy. It is fitting that on the occasion of the anniversary of our independence we pay tribute to the courage and innate good sense of Sri Lanka's people.

"They unhesitatingly rejected the call from certain misguided elements in our society, to stray from the path of democracy, a path that we have followed unwaveringly for close upon six decades. The role played by our armed services and the valor and dedication they have displayed cannot be under-estimated.

"Peace and harmony have been steadily restored during the year. Two momentous developments must be highlighted. For the first time a major militant group commenced a dialogue with the government and this has contributed to restoring normalcy in the North and East of Sri Lanka. The other is that our close dialogue with the new government in India has brought about a climate of mutual understanding and trust and we greatly welcomed India's assurance that the IPKF will be withdrawn at the earliest.

"The occasion of the 42nd anniversary of Sri Lanka's independence offers us the opportunity to greet all Sri Lankan nationals living abroad. The contribution made by them is of great importance.

latest by 31 March 1990, if not earlier. The nation's energies and efforts are being directed towards the healing of wounds, reconciliation and renewal. Equality of all citizens, regardless of community or creed is the bedrock on which the edifice of a new order is being built.

"Our foreign policy reflects our commitment to strengthening and expanding the traditional ties of friendship that bind us to the SAARC community of nations. We look forward to the year in Colombo.

"The occasion of the 42nd anniversary of Sri Lanka's independence offers us the opportunity to greet all Sri Lankan nationals living abroad. The contribution made by them is of great importance.

"Their efforts, in no small measure help keep the image of the country burnished. I am confident that on this day their thoughts are with us and that they will continue to give us the generous support that they have given us so unstintingly, to make Sri Lanka live up to its name, the Resplendent Isle."

Message from HE Latif Sherifdeen, Sri Lankan Ambassador to Kuwait

THE forty-two years, which had passed since independence, is just a fraction of that proud past for a nation which inherits a culture and a heritage which has withstood vast tribulations and crises.

Our fore-fathers have always fought for freedom and the just rights of the mother land. Many a struggle have been launched by them and won for the sake of succeeding generations: 'unity' had been the hallmark of all their successes.

During the last decade too, we faced very challenging situations as a nation. Undoubtedly we will emerge victorious with the lessons learnt from history, making it possible for the decade 1990 to

be one of "unity and development".

Already several programmes like 'Janasaviya' providing assets to the assetless and employment to the unemployed, and future programmes under modern technology for 21st century, targeting economic and social development of the nation have been launched. The million houses programme which has been acclaimed world-wide and the massive irrigation works which have been completed are monuments for the future. The visionary leadership of H.E. Ranasinghe Premadasa, President of Sri Lanka has brought social cohesion and political unity with the philoso-

phy of consultation, compromise and consensus.

On a regional and a global level our active participation in the South Asian Association of Regional Co-operation, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Commonwealth of Nations and the United Nations system helped the national unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of "the land." The relations between Sri Lanka and the comity of nations have developed tremendously during the past decades.

Kuwait-Sri Lanka relations have been strengthened with each passing year. Our relations go beyond the time of Ibn Battuta, the Arab explorer who landed in southern Sri Lanka,

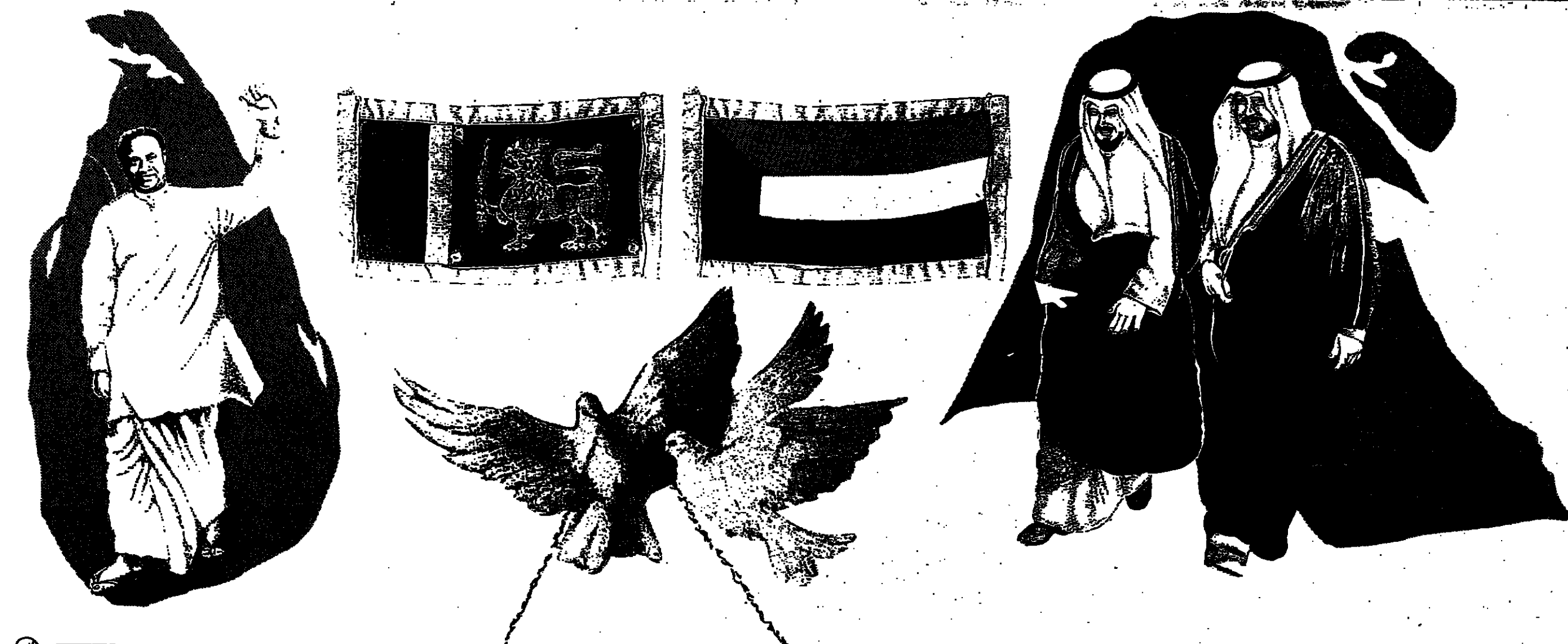
during the 14th century. On a common bond of equality our two nations will undoubtedly strengthen their ties under the leadership of H.E. Ranasinghe Premadasa, the President of Sri Lanka and H.H. Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait.

The Sri Lankans living in Kuwait are ample testimony to this long standing relationship. I am personally heartened to note that they contribute in great measure to the nation-building tasks of the state of Kuwait. I also record with gratitude the sacrifices they make towards their motherland, which has helped in the development efforts.

I take this opportunity to bless



that the Kuwait-Sri Lanka relations will be further enhanced and strengthened in the years to come. I also wish to convey my warmest greetings to all my compatriots, on this very happy occasion.



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Aesthetic beauty of handicrafts

WORLD market trends indicate a growing demand for hand crafted goods from developing countries. High labour rates in the developed world and the preference for exclusive, hand made products over mass-produced goods among the affluent are contributory factors. A desire for products made of natural raw material rather than synthetic reflects the current back-to-nature trend among the young. Handcrafted items which express personality and individuality are valued as a means of relieving uniform surrounding in housing complexes and apartments.

THE ARTS and crafts of Sri Lanka reflect skills handed down through generations from father to son. Using age-old techniques and indigenous materials, today's craftsmen turn out a stunning array of items which are not only ornamental, but of utility value in the modern household. These designs are mostly traditional, inspired by ancient myth, legend and spiritual belief and also the fauna and flora of the island. They express the purity and aesthetic grace of the Aryan and early Indic artistic traditions that Sri Lanka, being an island, has been able to preserve.

Today an active effort is being made to encourage these craftsmen to develop their art with contemporary technical support and expertise. Hence, new products adopted to suit market demands are also being promoted.

The Ministry of Rural Industrial Development is taking steps to establish a National Crafts Council, specific Craft Councils, the Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board and a National Design Centre to promote and foster handicrafts and improve their quality.

The Department of Marketing and Export Promotion of Handicrafts is presently charge with the task of improving craft standards in Sri Lanka and raising the economic level of its craftsmen. It provides raw materials, exercises quality control and promotes new designs and products. Goods are purchased from registered suppliers, and every article is coded so that it could be traced back to the producers. Marketing is effected through a network of nineteen sales outlets known as Laksala. In 1981 sales at these craft emporia amounted to Rs. 35 million, an increase of 8.6% over the previous year. The Fort Laksala, located in the heart of Colombo's shopping district alone accounted for sales of over Rs. 21 million. Meanwhile, export markets are being developed through participation in several prestigious trade fairs in Belgium, U.K., Switzerland, West Germany, Bahrain, Dubai and India.

Wood carvings
The patience and dedication of the craftsman is clearly apparent in the intricate designs and symbols of Sinhala art which adorn handicrafts made of wood. A varied range of ornaments, statues, wall plaques and utility items are turned out in ebony, teak, satin and other local woods.

Lacquer ware
Brilliant colouring and vivid design characterise lacquer ware. Turning and finger nail work are the techniques currently used. In the former the designs are applied while the article is turned by a lathe while in the other method the craftsman skillfully works in the design with his left thumb nail. The most distinctive work is done in the Matale area.

Masks
Intriguingly grotesque and colourful are the masks used in devil dancing and exorcising ceremonies. Many are masterpieces of the wood carver's art. The principal colours used for painting the masks are red, green, yellow and black and they come in sizes ranging from a few inches to about three feet in height. Further, key tags and buttons are made of these mask designs in miniature.

Drums
The island's rich musical tradition is reflected in the variety of drums played at all festivals and auspicious occasions. Drum-making is a traditional vocation practised in the districts around Kandy in the hill-country.

Coconut shell ware
The ubiquitous coconut shell, carved and polished provides a wide range of attractive utility items such as bowls, spoons, slides and buttons.

Handloom textiles
Weaving of home spun cotton cloth was once universal in the Central Province of the island. Traditional designs incorporating bird, flower, animal and geometric motifs are used in tasteful colour combinations in the weaving of very attractive furnishing materials such as bed spreads, curtains, table cloths and table mats.

Batik
Daring originality, artistic fin-



Peacock chair... one of the many ornamental creations in Rattan at a wayside stall of a cane craftsman

esse and vibrant colours characterise the versatile art of batik. The batik industry is not indigenous to Sri Lanka. Yet the country can boast of a number of internationally famed batik artists whose work has a high overseas demand.

Lace work
The delicate work and intricate designs plus incredible strength in spite of its gossamer like texture make hand-made lace a prized possession. Introduced in the 16th century by the Portuguese, lace making has its home in Galle and Matara. Items made out of 'Galle Lace' as it is termed includes handkerchiefs and napkin corner, place mats and pillow cases.

Embroidery
A lesser known ancient art, but nevertheless one of the most elegant, traditional embroidery is used today on ladies garments such as kaftans, kurtas, maxis and ponchos.

Jewellery
Elegant simplicity, superb craftsmanship and rare value characterise this highly traditional art. In jewellery as in embroidery, there are two distinct types that exist up-to-date, namely Kandyan and Low country jewellery.

Kandyan Jewellery — chiefly gold chains, pendants, rings, earrings and bracelets. The designs are usually those of flowers, seeds, fruits and birds.

Low country jewellery — includes a variety of combs, brooches, buttons hair pieces and rings in which 'Matara diamonds' (white zircons) are largely used. The articles bear a distinct resemblance to Portuguese type jewellery of the 17th century.

Today, semi-precious stones such as sapphires, tourmalines, rubies and amethysts are widely used in the making of jewellery.

Silverware
The hill country of Sri Lanka is well known for its exquisite silverware. Even today the Kandyan craftsmen enjoy a very highly reputation for carving intricate designs in silver ware.

Articles available for sale range from trays, trinket boxes, and candlesticks to filigree and costume jewellery.

Brassware

A glow as rich as gold combined with some of the purest forms of traditional Sinhala designs make brassware one of the most attractive of the ancient arts. Brassware can be divided into two types — the wrought and the cast. Out of the former are created boxes, trays and vases, bowls and lamps. The two chief techniques employed for ornamentation of brass work are piercing and damascening.

Shell ware
Beautifully engraved and elegantly carved shellware items

are some of the exquisite items made out of these carved shells.

Pottery

Earthenware items were used by the Ceylonese for ceremonial, architectural and domestic purposes. The methods of ornamenting earthenware vessels have been painting, incising, stamping and slip painting. The art of pottery has not lost its originality and today we find plenty of articles for household requirements ornamented in the old techniques.

The pottery industry has been organised by the state on the basis of semi-mechanised workshops on co-operative lines. The Ceramic Corporation turns out today quality tableware and

IN SOCIO-POLITICAL terminology Sri Lanka is one of the Third World Countries. As common to all Third World countries one of its distinguishing features is the availability of human resources over and above the requirements of economic activities in the country. This created a situation of unemployment which has adverse results. The sustenance of an economically unproductive population is a severe strain on the limited economic resources of the country and the problem of unemployment has got the highest priority in all the development strategies of Sri Lanka since independence, in 1948.

The development of manpower resources of the country has long been identified as a means of solving the unemployment problem. The availability of free education facilities from primary to university level has not only given Sri Lanka the highest level of literacy in the region but also has provided an educationally articulated workforce.

Free medical facilities from birth to death have promoted a high standard of health all over the country. The availability of training facilities in the professional administrative, technical and vocational fields have equipped the Sri Lankans with knowledge and skills of employment required for the country and the outside world where such knowledge and skills are scarce.

Ethnic religious and cultural plurality of the country has imbibed in the Sri Lankans an ability to live in diversity while ascertaining individuality. Adjustability and adaptability inherent in them have placed them in foreign employments, without causing much inconvenience to them and the environment in which they work.

A working knowledge of a foreign language have increased their employability in labour markets outside the national frontiers. The knack for grasping technological intricacies combined with agility of manipulative skills have equipped the Sri Lankans adequately to successfully face the challenges of foreign labour markets.

Sri Lankan manpower has contributed in no small way to the development activities of the Gulf countries during the last one and a half decades. Sri Lankan skills have been utilised in professional, administrative, technical and vocational fields, where such skills were needed. At present in Kuwait alone the Sri Lankan work force is estimated to be close upon 89,000. They are employed in government ministries, commercial, industrial and service establishments, and personal and domestic services.

One of the peculiarities of the Sri Lankan labour in Kuwait is the preponderance of females over males.

There are about 76,000 Sri Lankan women employed in various sectors including professional, administrative, technical and vocational fields. But the overwhelming majority of women are engaged in unskilled employment. They provide



Training facilities in Sri Lanka have equipped the people with knowledge and skills for employment



services such as cleaning and domestic help. The cleaning workers are employed by service companies and enjoy better privileges than their counterparts in domestic services.

The largest proportion of the Sri Lankan labour force in Kuwait is in the domestic sector. Their terms and conditions are singularly determined by the

attitudes, temperaments and dispositions of the employers. This has eventually led to good as well as bad results. It is an irony that good results are less noticed than the bad.

It is one of the facets of the role of the Sri Lankan embassy in Kuwait to minimise the bad results of domestic employment, by amicably settling the disputes

between the housemaids and their employers.

The co-operation and assistance ungrudgingly received from the employers and government authorities in Kuwait in settling these disputes are very much appreciated and the Sri Lankan embassy look forward to this co-operation and assistance in future too.

Our heartiest greetings to the government and the people of SRI LANKA on the occasion of the NATIONAL DAY

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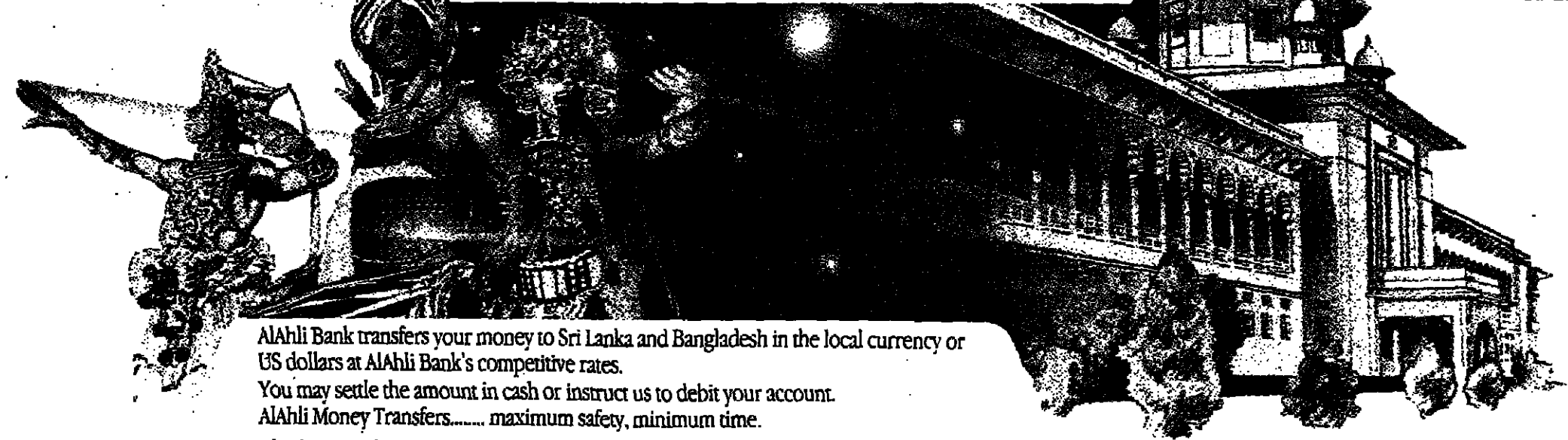
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Polonnaruwa: medieval capital

By Lucien Rajakarunanyake

THE BLURBS and brochures speak much of the ancient cities of Sri Lanka. A visitor to the island's North Central Dry Zone, which was the seat of the early civilization, will be struck by what remains of the ancient cities. Magnificent capitals, which still show the advances made by Sri Lankans, particularly the Sinhalese in construction and engineering, city planning, and also social organization.

If Anuradhapura deserving gets pride of place being the oldest of the great cities — holding sway for nearly a thousand years, Polonnaruwa is mentioned almost in the same breath. Polonnaruwa came later, it was the medieval capital. The place to which the kings retreated, and finally established themselves, after repeated forays by South Indian plunderers and adventurers. But the comparative youth of Polonnaruwa does not diminish its beauty and grandeur. It's special place in the record of sculpture and art. It's pre-eminence in certain skills of engineering, and it's great King, Parakramabahu the Great, the only one designated as great among the Sinhalese monarchs.

This splendid medieval capital was established in the 10th Century A.D. It enjoyed its greatness for just over a century and began its decline in the 12th Century, once again with the ravages from invaders from across the Palk Strait, and the disunity of the indigenous ruling clan. But, in that short span of a century and more it achieved such greatness which continues to dazzle today.

To most Sri Lankans, Polonnaruwa's niche in history is the reign of Parakramabahu who even took his armies to Burma, and whose generals fought with success in South India, and his great gift to the country, the Parakrama Samudhra — literally the Sea of Parakrama. An irrigation reservoir of 5,940 acres. The high point of irrigation engineering among the people who had already shown great achievement in the field at Anuradhapura.

The engineers of Polonnaruwa combined three reservoirs to



The image of a serene standing Buddha measuring 23 feet at the Gal Vihara at Polonnaruwa

make it one gigantic man-made inland "sea", which still gives water to the fields of the country

around.

It's waters are now augmented by those diverted from the Mah-

aweli River, in what is the most ambitious schemes of modern irrigation engineering under-



Entrance to the Vatadage at Polonnaruwa with moonstone and guardstones in the foreground.

taken by present day governments, keeping alive the country's tradition of irrigation. The monuments of Polonnaruwa are mainly scattered around the vast Parakrama Samudhra. Close to the Rest House one could see the Council Chamber of one king, where the pillars have inscribed on them the status and title of the various ministers and chiefs who gathered there.

The Royal Citadel enclosed by a large rampart includes the palace of Parakramabahu, easily one of the most imposing buildings of its day, which archaeologists and historians say was a seven-storey edifice; a fact borne out in good measure by the sheer brick-laid girth of the walls at the base and lower levels which still exist.

Nearby is the Royal Bath — the Kumara Pokuna (Princely Bath) — to translate directly from the Sinhala) which through an ingenious method of plumbing, drew water from the reservoir nearby and kept it in constant flow and circulation.

Of religious monuments there is an abundance in Polonnaruwa, and places of such exquisite beauty too. There is the Vatadage, the circular relic house, with its elegance untouched by the ravages of time. Move up stepping on an intricately carved Moonstone, pause at the guard stones besides the steps, and go on to a huge circular platform where seated Buddhas carved in granite still mediate facing the four cardinal points. Many of the carved pillars of the dagaba still stand, with no roof to support, while others which have collapsed in time still retain the fine sculpture of their finials.

The nearby Samadhi Prasada, was, as its name implies, a seven-storey structure of magnificence. Built in a style which appears to combine Siamese architectural trends, it is a square pyramidal tower in seven tiers. Each of the sides of each tier has an arched niche which is the repository of a figure of Buddhist worship.

The Thuparama also at the Vatadage complex, still retains the original vaulted roof showing the type of shelter the shrines of old had. An opening just below the roof level sheds light into the dark inner chamber, with the beam falling where the face of a giant Buddha would have been

now destroyed. The guide will describe vividly how the light reflected from the Buddha image and face would have lit up the chamber with a golden glow.

The heights of skill of the medieval painter is best seen at the Tivanka Image House — the largest among the many brick

built shrines of Polonnaruwa, the shrine which gets its name from the unusual figure of the standing Buddha, with three gentle curves in the stance (Tivanka — three curves) and almost the entirety of its walls covered with beautiful frescoes displaying stories of Buddhist teaching and

lore, the heavens of deities, the netherworld of demons, the many previous incarnations of the Buddha. What is remaining of the paintings give a good clue to the heights reached by the artists of the 11th century, and of the magnificence that would have been in the now roofless shrine.



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and
people of the Democratic Republic
of Sri Lanka on the occasion of the
42nd Independence Day
celebrations.

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مركز المصالح

Filming on location

By B.C. Perera

THAI and African jungles, Burmese villages, Indian kingdoms, montane tea plantations and the depths of the Great Barrier Reef — all these and many other exotic locations have come together in Sri Lanka, in the make-believe world of the cinema.

Sri Lanka's advantages as a prime film location have been discovered by the best-known among film directors from the early fifties, and have made it one of the most sought after filming sites today.

While on location in the Kandyan hills for his movie "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," none other than Hollywood's Steven Spielberg said, "This (Sri

Lanka) is a film set made by God himself. This is a film-maker's dream." Making this film in the early eighties, he used Lankan locations around Kandy for scenes of the former Indian maharajahs' kingdoms in the Himalayan hills.

According to Spielberg, in Sri Lanka there is a change of scenery almost every fifty miles, while in most other parts of the world such a change is available only after travelling several hundreds of miles. Like many other film-makers, Spielberg had another reason for being attracted to Sri Lanka: the traditional hospitality and the excellent holiday prospects. "The crew and the cast like to come to work in Sri Lanka because they can make their stay here a holiday in itself.

That is why I noticed my crew and cast coming with their entire families," he said.

Sri Lanka's reputation as a versatile and desirable film location has been growing over several decades. In the early fifties the celebrated David Lean made the "Outcast of the Island," starring Trevor Howard, in which locations here were chosen to depict a Burmese village. Then came "The Purple Plain" which featured Gregory Peck at the height of his fame, and "Elephant Walk" which starred Elizabeth Taylor and Peter Finch.

While these were happy beginnings, the country's real claim to "stardom" as a film site came with that David Lean production which made cinema history:

"The Bridge on the River Kwai". In "The Bridge" Sri Lanka was chosen to stand in for Thailand, where there was unrest at the time. It was made almost entirely on location at Kintulgala, off the Colombo-Ratnapura Road, using a large number of local extras and supporting technical crew. The Oscar-winning hit, which starred Alec Guinness in one of his best remembered roles, depicted the true story of how hundreds of Allied prisoners-of-war perished in building a rail bridge for the Japanese. The producers found little difficulty in constructing a whole bridge across the river at Kintulgala and later blasting it, together with several rail bogies, for the final scenes of the movie. The Kintulgala Resthouse, which was the centre of operations for the film, still displays several sepia photographs of the great experience which brought the place to international fame.

Soon the combination of well-known climate, abundant verdant valleys and hills, friendly people with a large number speaking English, the ever-present warmth of hospitality, comfortable hotels and the availability of good technical support through the growing Sri Lankan film industry made this country known to film-makers the world over.

In the sixties, a reputed German producer located his entire film "Three Yellow Cats" on the island. The film no doubt had a beneficial effect for Sri Lanka, since many Germans were exposed to the beauty of the country as the story took an adventurous scientist through some of Sri Lanka's most exotic places. Many believe that the German "tourist invasion of Sri Lanka" might have been prompted in some measure by this film.

A film in a different vein was "Tarzan the Ape Man" made in the seventies, which starred Bo Derek and was directed by her husband, John. It was made on location over an extensive area, which included the Kandyan hills, the hinterland of the Mahaweli River and its tributaries and in eastern Trincomalee. There is even today a "Tarzan Hotel", a small rural kiosk, beside the Mahaweli



Sri Lanka's scenic beauty makes it a paradise for film makers from around the world

tributary where most of the shooting took place.

The Dereks came back to make another spectacular film called "Ghosts Can't Do It," which was shot in Galle beside the historic Dutch fortress there, its harbour, and its old buildings such as the New Oriental and Closenbergs Hotels. Some scenes were shot in the beach resort of Bentota before moving on to Negombo, north of Colombo. The production company decided to bring in a minimum of technicians and crew because as Bo Derek herself, with her husband agreeing, said: "Sri Lankan movie-men are good enough and even equal to those we have in Hollywood. So just as well, we employ your men and women."

Another film, expected to be a hit in the US after its record-breaking run in Germany, is the West German-Sri Lankan production "Cobra Heat", made entirely on Sri Lankan locations. The story involves a network of international drug traffickers with their headquarters in Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan Police joining forces with international police to hunt down the drug dealers. Sri Lanka's leading film star, Ravindra Randeniya, headed the local cast and shared the top credits with such big names as Elke Sommers, Tony

Kendall and Heather Thomas.

Frontline roles for Lankan actors have become a pattern in many productions that come on location, as in the Australian tele-film about Charles Sobharaj, made for Television of Asia's "Most Celebrated Criminals". This production features Ravindra Randeniya together with several other local stars such as Henry Jayasena, Asoka Perera, Lucky Wickremaranyake and J.H. Jayawardene in key roles.

In fact, the current boast in Sri Lanka among those who offers facilities to Western film-makers who locate their films here is that they cannot only simulate most countries of the world here, but they can also provide men and women who can stand in for any race in the world. It was not surprising, therefore, that when Eurobrothers Productions of the United States brought the film "Iron Triangle" to Sri Lanka they not only found "authentic Vietnam scenes" for the whole film, but also found "Vietnamese" extras as well as both white and black "American GIs."

In late 1988, one of the most interesting films to be shot in Sri Lanka was "Spooks", which brought together spies from the CIA in the US to the KGB in the Soviet Union to meet on a fic-

tious island and plot the fall of Wall Street. The film was made completely in Kandy and in the busy streets of Colombo.

The last days of the tottering Marcos' regime in the Philippines were enacted in the old colonial buildings, streets and by-roads of Colombo and at the international airport at Katunayake for the TV series "Dangerous Life". And in the TV series "Shadow of the Cobra", an Australian director presented to the world Asia's "killer of fin-esse", Charles Sobharaj (played by Art Malik), who is believed to have been responsible for at least 15 murders and a spate of slick robberies during the seventies. The film was shot entirely in Sri Lanka, and New Delhi's high-security jail, the New Delhi courts and that city's old colonial hotels and busy streets where Sobharaj stayed and carried out his nefarious activities were all replicated on location in and around Colombo.

The French, not wanting to miss out on using Sri Lankan locations, came here, with a Kerala-based story of a little Catholic girl who claimed reincarnation from a previous life. Francois Villiers, one of France's leading directors, filmed on location in Negombo, Pailagala and parts of Colombo. Director Villiers said of the local film

stars: "We brought a language coach to prompt them in their English language dialogue. The stars did their dialogue so well that the coach had no work at all!"

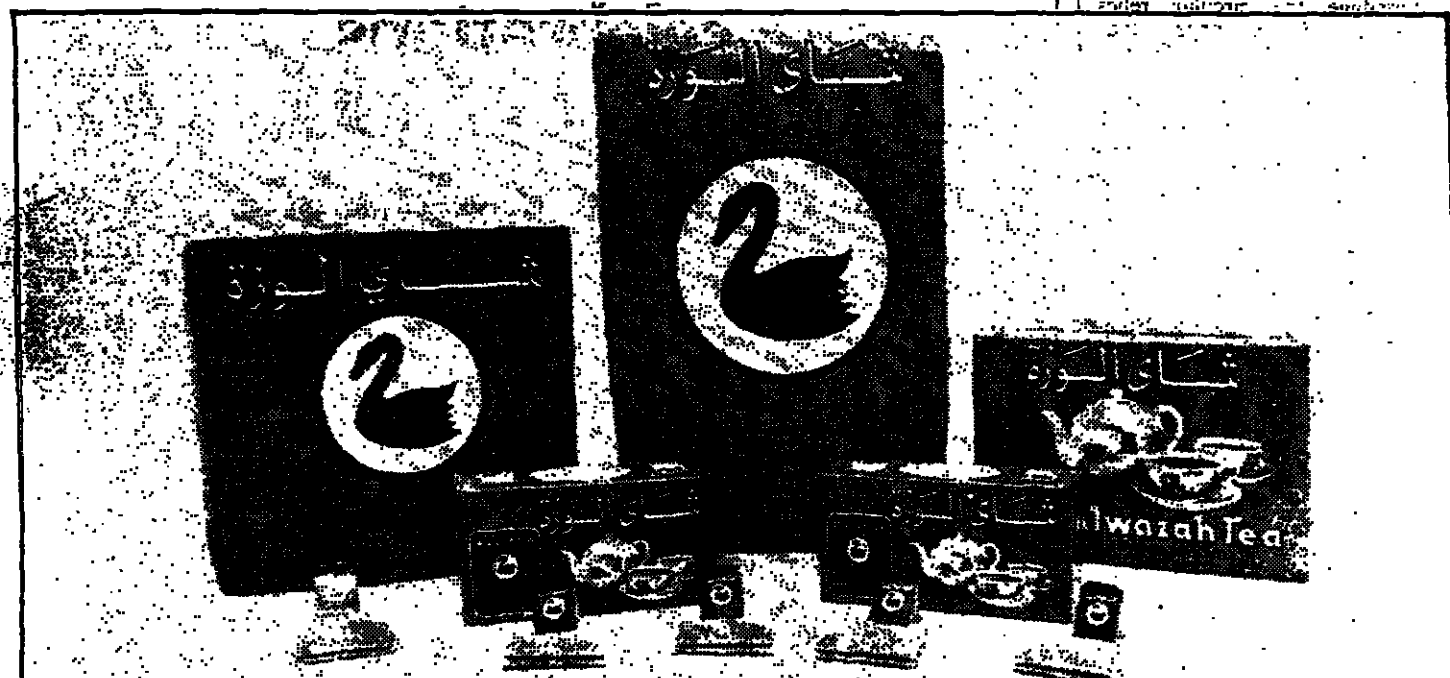
Film crew, technicians and even experts such as art directors, production managers and assistant directors, as well as hosts of extras, are available at rates comparably much cheaper than in most other countries.

Some locally based businesses have been formed to service foreign film-makers on location in Sri Lanka. These organisations maintain comprehensive lists of film actors, technicians and crew members and provide expertise and location props as well. They will arrange location inspections and, when locations are selected, handled the red tape of government procedures. Additionally, dealing with import and export procedures, making accommodation arrangements, giving advice local values, culture, religion and other aspects of this country, etc., are all part of the services they provide to their clients.

Sri Lanka has become a major filming site and both the Ceylon Tourist Board and Air Lanka, the national carrier, are now geared to service foreign film-makers who come here on location.



Typical scene of the southern coast of Sri Lanka.



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- 4) Allow the tea pot to stand 3 to 5 minutes, with tea brewing inside.
- 5) It is advisable not to keep the teapot on the fire boiling for a long time, as the tea could lose its taste, colour and aroma.

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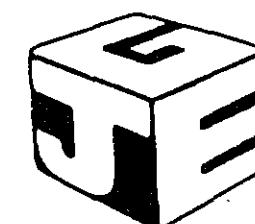
- ١ - أن يكون الماء المستعمل نقياً تماماً.
 - ٢ - يغلي الماء في إبريق نظيف ولمدة قصيرة.
 - ٣ - توضع الكمية اللازمة من الشاي في الإبريق المخصص للشاي ويصب عليها الماء المغلي.
 - ٤ - يقرب الإبريق حول نار خفيفة ولمدة ثلاث إلى خمس دقائق.
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Nature's wonder: The Horton plains

By Lal Anthonis

HIGH UP in the central hills of the island, nestling in a wild and windswept saddle at an elevation of 7,200 ft. on the Haputale range, where the bright and clear, the soft and misty change from minute to minute, is one of Lanka's most forbidding yet magnificent, fascinating and stupendously beautiful regions known as the Horton Plains. Discovered by Thompson Farr during the British colonial era and named after one of the British Governors, the plains offer the visitors

many a varied vista and an array of experiences.

As her name implies, here are a series of vast open plains called 'patan' in Sinhala - rolling along as far as the eye can see. Dipping every now and then into misty vales and mossy, muddy marshes, often rising up again into pointed peaks and running into deeply wooded areas of moist covered montane forest, whose large trees, their gnarled limbs draped with dripping lianas and lichens stand stark against the gloomy skyline braving the icy

winds. Vast jungle covered cliffs of awesome heights hang from the sides while ice cold, crystal clear streams, pools and waterfalls mark her verdant face. The Horton Plains grip you with their unique atmosphere, scenic beauty and ever changing character while you are there, and then beckons you again with their cold stark beauty when you have left.

Worlds End

One of the main attractions of the plains is 'Worlds End'. There are in fact two of them, the small

'Worlds End' and the big 'Worlds End'. They are about half a mile apart from each other. As you approach from the direction of Farr Inn, you first come to the small one where you can see the escarpment fall vertically to the Nagrac tea estate 900 ft. below. Continue on, and in a few minutes you'll be awed by the sight of the fall straight down to the same estate, but this time a dramatic 2,900 ft. below. After taking in this fantastic view for a few moments, walk through the thin fringe of bushes to your right and you will come across a slab of rock overhanging the drop. There is a thin crack on this. Lie down and put your eye to it. There is no doubt that there could be no closer experience to being airborne than actually flying.

From the big 'Worlds End' one could also get a stupendous view of the surrounding hills and mountain ranges wreathed in mists and clouds, and on clear days even of the Indian Ocean approximately 50 miles to the south. This cliff is about three miles from Farr Inn, two thirds of which is motorable.

At 7,850 ft and 7,741 ft the mountains of Kirigalpotha and Thotupola become the second and third highest peaks in the island, the first being Pidurutalagala at 8,280 ft. The former two are easily accessible on foot from the plains. A days outing each to the two mountains can be a very interesting and rewarding experience. The road from Thotupola skirts the summit of Kirigalpotha just before arriving at the Plains. A few furlongs more along this road towards Farr Inn and look to your right. On a clear day you will be able to see in the distance, the 7,358 ft sacred mountain of 'Adams Peak' or 'Sri Pada' pointing to the azure blue sky.

Baker Falls

The ice cold Belihul Oya river begins somewhere on the slopes of Thotupola and bubbles her way southwards through the plains to join the Walawe. On the course of her meandering journey through the Plains, she goes over the broad and beautiful, five tiered, two sectioned Baker Falls. A very pleasant forty five minute walk over windswept misty 'pathwood' and strobilanthus groves from either 'Worlds End' or Farr Inn would bring you to this crazy cataract. The Belihul Oya also forms pretty little pools along her way across the Plains, and trout fishing is excellent in these waters. 'The Slab Rock Falls' a twenty minute walk from Farr Inn is small but very pretty. You see it on your way from Farr Inn to Baker Falls.

For the more adventurous, camping is superb on the plains. In fact, if you are to get the real feel, the absolute essence of the plains and perhaps even to get to know in depth what her denizens signify you have to camp out on



The Horton plains

the plains for a better part of a week. It is a varied experience.

Tracking

Jungle trail tracking would undoubtedly be one of the finest pastimes when in the plains. There are many different types of trails and all of them are very pretty. One could observe a wide variety of montane flora and bird life on these trails. Also keep a weather eye open for the butterflies, moths and other insects which could be fascinating and intriguing. Animal life is usually restricted to lizards of which there are three varieties and if lady luck is on your side you may come across sambar, Sri Lanka's largest species of deer, which can also be found in the foot hills and in the forests of the low country.

Along these trails you also have a very good chance of observing the two types of monkeys found on the plains. Unlike their cousins in the low country dry zone, who are bold and not shy, sometimes perhaps too bold, the monkeys here are shy and wary of human presence. So it is best that you keep conversation to a minimum at all, when on these trails, and at the first sight of these creatures, movements too should be slow and careful. Make sure you attire yourself in clothes that blend with the verdant surroundings and also see that you don't have any buckles or other trinkets that would glint in the sunlight.

You could choose from many different types of trails or bridal paths. Some of them are deeply wooded with a clear floor, while others are deeply wooded with deep fern underbrush and delightful miniature waterfalls. You could also choose trails which go

through just one particular type of vegetation for instance groves of strobilanthus. Here during certain seasons you could hear and see the beautiful and endemic jungle fowl. You could even choose open trails in the 'patnas' or the plains. Walks could be taken to places such as 'Worlds End' Baker Falls, Kirigalpotha and Thotupola.

At 7,200 ft Horton Plains has a vegetation that is unique. The 'patnas' or the plains consist mainly of a tuft grass known as Crosypogon. The plains dry up and become very brittle even during a slight drought. They then become a fire hazard. During a prolonged drought a carelessly thrown cigarette could set off a fire that would devastate acres of plains before dying out. Also growing on the plains are two species of tiny blue flowers. The slightly larger of them is known as Aristea Ekloni and the other the blue Exacum (Exacum Macranthum). Yet another pretty flower found here is the deep purple coloured Osbeckia Walkeri, known in Sinhala as Bovitia. You also come across it in the lowlands but never so pretty as in this elevation.

Tree species

The main canopy of the montane forest is a fairly large gnarled looking tree, usually umbrella shaped with pretty spreads of white blossoms on the upper side of its leafy roof, known in the local dialect as Keena. Two other important trees are the Michelia Nilagrica (Wai Sapu in Sinhala) and the Rhododendrum. Zelanicum (Asoka or Marathmal in Sinhala) unmistakable with its leathery leaves and sprays of blood red blossoms. All three

species are endemic to this island.

Another interesting plant is the purple leaved Strobilanthus, Nelu in Sinhala. You would find groves of this on the walk to 'Worlds End'. The plant blooms only once in five years, drops its seeds and then dies. The next generation then gradually takes over.

The 'Horton Plains' take a special place in the 'Ecological' and perhaps 'Botanical' map of the world. In one of her marshes grows a species of bog moss called the Spagnum. This is the only place in the whole world where it is known to exist. It was once heavily exploited for orchid breeding but is now strictly protected. The visitor to this stark wilderness would be able to see a fair amount of wild life, depending on the length of his stay. Among them are three members of the cat family. Two of them, the leopard and the fishing cat could also be seen in the low country while the rusty spotted cat is found only in the hills. Even the two cats that are found in the low country seem to prefer and thrive in the atmosphere and the environs of the plains as the specimens seen here are really big and usually in superb condition.

Sambur

The largest of the deer species found in the island, the sambur, could be seen out in the open in small groups towards evening. Like the cats, they thrive up here, but are very wary and timid and cannot be approached.

They take off at the slightest unfamiliar sound or movement. They are best observed from within your motor vehicle, which they seem to tolerate to some extent. The smallest of the deer species, the mouse deer is also

known to exist in the plains, and have on a number of occasions been seen by Rangers but a visitor would indeed be lucky to even catch a brief glimpse of one. The smart barking deer is the third member of the trio that makes their home in the plains. Though not very common, wild boar could also be seen and this is the same species that is found in the low country.

The Horton Plains is also a bird watchers paradise. Among the 450 bird types found on the island 20 are peculiar to the island. Most of them could be seen on the plains together with a large array of others, some of which are confined to the hills. Among the endemic types you would come across are the yellow eared Bulbul, fan tailed Warbler, ashy headed Babbler, Ceylon Hill White Eye, Ceylon black bird, Ceylon Arrenga and the dusky blue Flycatcher.

Birds

In the lower areas of the plains you would come across one of the island's prettiest birds, the beautiful Blue Magpie, another endemic type. This one is also found across in the low country but not so commonly as up here. Also seen on the plains are a large variety of birds of prey. The most majestic of them is undoubtedly the Mountain Hawk Eagle, one of Sri Lanka's largest birds of prey and found only in these climes where the air spreads thin.

Two routes are recommended from Colombo. One would be via Avissawella, Kitulgala, Nuwara Eliya and Pattipola which is around 130 miles, while the other is via Ratnapura, Balangoda, Haputale, Boralanda and Ohiya. This route is around 145 miles.



Caparisoned elephants at the head of the grandiose event

Colombo's Navam Perehera

IN FEBRUARY, Colombo comes alive to the throbbing of drums and the mystic rhythms of the Orient. Yes, it is time once again for the annual Colombo Navam Maha Perehera. This pageant is the biggest cultural happening in Colombo.

Kandy, situated in the hilly climes of Sri Lanka, is synonymous with its historic and magnificent Kandy Esala Perehera, which has brought Sri Lanka recognition the world over. Likewise, the Navam Maha Perehera is rapidly gaining association with the City of Colombo.

According to the Buddhist calendar, February, or the second month in the year, is known as Navam. It was in the month of Navam that the Buddha proclaimed Sariputta and Moggallana, who were monks in the Buddhist Order, to be his two chief disciples. It is to commemorate this important event in Buddhism that the perehera is held.

The perehera first commenced in 1979. Organisation of the pageant was by the Hunupitiya Gangarama Temple, which remains the centre of activity of the perehera. Most of its participants live in Colombo and its suburbs and usually arrive in the city a few days prior to the pageant and reside at the temple.

The elephants taking part in the perehera are brought from distant places where they are employed in logging and other heavy work. During the period of the perehera, they usually spend their time in the Viharamahadevi Park, a short distance away from the temple. This provides an ideal time to befriend and take a

closer look at these gentle pachyderms.

People from near and far flock to the city to get a glimpse of this grandiose event. They line up along the perehera route and watch spellbound with awe and reverence the procession winding its way before their eyes.

The perehera is held on two consecutive days. On the first day it takes to the streets in the night. There are over 5,000 participants each playing their own role in this great pageant. The sharp crack of whips that rent the night heralds the start of the perehera.

Indication

The whips are wielded by a handful of 'kasakarayas' or whip-crackers who head the perehera. Their arrival is a sure indication that the perehera is on its way.

A combination of excitement and nostalgia strikes one on hearing the first drumbeats. The drummers are an integral part of the perehera. Without their active participation no perehera is complete. Unlike the other participants, the drummers do not have exotic costumes. They are the most simply dressed in white cloth, red sash and headband. Rhythmically they step sideways and backwards and move along in the perehera drumming the beat with their fingers and sticks, infusing with the beat of their drums the very life and sustenance of the pageant. The blending of the different drumbeats is soothing and harmonious.

Stepping in tune to the beat of the drums are the Kandyan and low-country dance troupes. Each troupe consists of 50 or

more dancers. Altogether there are about 3,000 dancers who thrill the crowds of onlookers with dance forms special to Sri Lanka.

Attired in flowing, frilled, glittering outfits, complete with head dress and anklets, these dancers jump, twirl and whirl about and step to the rhythm of the drums with the expertise that comes naturally to the traditional dancer. The lithe and graceful movements of the female dancers have a language of their own.

The majority of the dancers and drummers are tradition bound. They hail from families where these forms of aesthetic art are handed down over the generations. As a result, it is rarely that you come across a non-professional.

Mingling with the dancers and drummers are the brightly caparisoned elephants. Some of them are even adorned with little twinkling jets. Over a 100 elephants, both big and small, take part in the Navam Perehera every year. You may even spot a restless baby elephant swaying and his trunk to and fro impatient to get the perehera over and done with.

Walking abreast the road in twos and threes these massive beasts patiently tread the perehera route guided by their mahouts or keepers.

Taking pride of place is the majestic tusker bearing the casket of relics. Swathed in rich silks, his tusks sheathed in silver and gilded covering, very gently he sets foot aware of the precious load on his back, carrying out his responsibilities to perfection.



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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Wall Street watch

January defies expectations

'Tokyo may now be calling the tune in New York'

NEW YORK, Feb 3, (AP): After welcoming the decade in high style with the Dow Jones Industrials hitting a record, the stock market sputtered and ended the month with hardly a benefit from the so-called January effect.

Except for the first and last trading days and a few sessions in-between, cash-rich institutional investors who sold stocks last year for tax purposes did not put their money back to work on Wall Street as in many Januaries past.

Disappointing corporate profits, rising interest rates and uncertainty about the Federal Reserve's credit policy were some of the reasons investors apparently decided to sit it out.

"We ended the year thinking a soft landing was a guaranteed phenomenon followed by the Fed easing and lower interest rates," said Alfred E. Goldman, vice president for A.G. Edwards and Sons Inc. in St. Louis.

Instead, data suggested the economy was weakening further and the Fed's ability to loosen credit was slowed by concern about the dollar and keeping it competitive against other currencies, said Goldman.

"The January effect, we had two days of it — in December," Goldman said. "January basically turned into a disaster, one of the worst on record."

In fact, some Wall Streeters said the January effect was offset by the Japanese effect — the ability of the Japanese market to influence, if not decide, the outcome of the US market.

"US stocks virtually duplicated a downturn on the Tokyo exchange, the first clear indication that Tokyo may now be calling the tune in New York," Standard and Poor's economists wrote in their Jan 31 edition of the Outlook.

The Bank of Japan raised its discount rate, the interest it charges for loans to commercial banks, four times in late 1989 to cool the local economy and curb inflation. That shook the Japanese stock and bond markets, and sent tremors all the way to Wall Street.

Economist Edward Yardeni with Prudential-Bache Securities Inc. said the Japanese interest rate hike undoubtedly contributed to the slump in the US stock market.

"Our market was vulnerable because in the last year bullish props had fallen apart," Yardeni said.

Those props ranged from a slump in the takeover speculation buoying stocks to a realization that corporate profits are weak, Yardeni said.

Although investor concerns about the business outlook were felt in the stock market's last sessions in January, the market ended the month and started February on a slightly more upbeat note.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials showed a net gain for the week of 43.47 points, closing at 2,602.70. Still, that's more than 200 points lower than where it began in January.

Among broader averages, the New York Stock Exchange composite index was 2.54 higher than the previous week, ending at 182.75; the Nasdaq composite index for the over-the-counter market edged up 0.88 to 422.21; and the American Stock Exchange market value index gained 2.69 to 353.56.

However, the gains came on lighter volume as many big institutional investors remained cautious and noncommittal.

Big Board volume averaged 169.09 million shares a day, down from an average 181.19 million the week before.

The Japanese market's impact on US trading reflects an integrated global marketplace and does not necessarily suggest that US markets are now taking their cue from Japan, some analysts say.

"Sometime ago the Tokyo market seemed to follow the US market. Now everybody is watching everybody else," said Theodore Tung, senior vice-president with National City Corp. in Cleveland. "It's very much a mutual effect. It's hard to say that one is determining the other."

Despite the external influences, January effect is viewed by some as an indicator of how the rest of the year will stack up. Historically, if the market in general and small stocks in particular do well in the early stages of the year, as the effect suggests, the rest of the year will do well.

Yale Hirsch, an old Tappan, New Jersey, investment adviser and publisher of the annual stock trader's Almanac, says the direction stock prices take in January has foreshadowed the full year's outcome correctly all but three times since 1950.

Seminar on investment and banking

Stable economy gives new push to market

By Lima Al Khalafawi

Arab Times Staff

THE three-day seminar on investment and banking of Japan Week 1990 opened yesterday. The view of the institutional investor in Japan was presented by the Managing Director of Sanyo Securities Akira Takahashi, who spoke about market activities and changes over the years. He added that Tokyo market in the 1980s showed that the stock prices rose steadily during the last decade with the market index rising 5.9-fold and the market value has jumped 9.2-fold.

In 1988, the Tokyo stock market surpassed the New York market in terms of market value, thus becoming the largest equity market in the world.

He added that the strong growth in the Tokyo stock market can be attributed firstly to the high, stable growth of the Japanese economy and secondly to the growth of Japanese institutional investors.

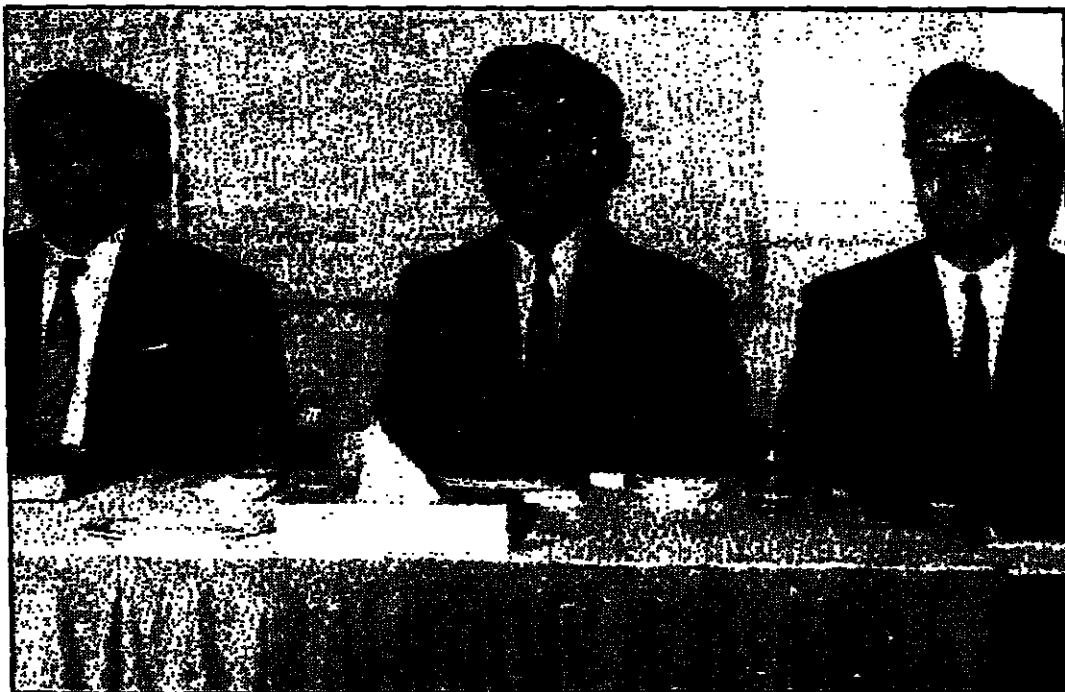
He said that funds managed by these investors in the Japanese stock market have further expanded during the last 10 years. Their stock holdings have continued to rise, along with the volume of trading.

The Japanese institutional investors can be divided into several categories. The major ones are city banks, regional banks, life insurance companies, non-life insurance companies and investment trusts.

He added that in the second half of the 1980s, institutional investors became active traders in the stock market for four basic reasons:

■ The industrial demand for funds declined, causing growth of lending by financial institutions to level off and thus resulting in increased surplus funds.

■ For fund managers, investment returns in fixed income securities were lower than expected returns because interest rates were at historically low levels. This led to greater emphasis of



Picture shows from (left to right) Akira Takahashi, Masanobu Takahashi and Ross Rowbury.

stock investment in hopes of generating higher returns.

■ In 1984, life insurance companies were authorised to conclude for "tokkin" funds, or specified money trusts, followed in 1989 by the relaxation of regulations governing management of public funds.

Further easing of regulations led to stepped-up fund management through investments in stock.

■ In an effort to raise equipment funds or to improve their financial base, Japanese business have actively embraced equity financing both at home and abroad by issuing convertible bonds (CBs) and warrant bonds.

To facilitate the smooth issuance of large amounts of securities, Japanese business entrust financial institutions and related corporations with stock ownership on their behalf.

With a surge in mergers and acquisitions, cross-holding of shares was promoted. This resulted in significant increase in the number of stocks owned by corporations.

Takahashi said that as institutional investors began actively investing in stocks in the second half of 1980s, changes occurred in share prices formation and favourite issues in the stock market.

He also spoke about what institutions should become attractive investments in the 1990s. In this respect the economic and financial developments that can be anticipated are the following:

■ The world-wide growth of financial assets, surpassing the pace of growth of goods, is expected to continue, with the trend of credit relaxation likely to persist.

■ Asian NIEs, such as Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore, will join the ranks of advanced industrial countries and will be pressed for adjustment in their economic structure.

Economic growth then will be sustained by investment in advanced infrastructure.

■ The changeover of East European countries to free economy will spur demand for both capital goods and durable consumer goods.

■ Upon integration of the European Economic Community, Japanese capital exports will rise in various forms.

The second session was presented by the managing director and research director of Japanese Equity International Division of Sanyo Investment Research Limited, Masanobu Takahashi. He spoke about the market strategy for 1990, evaluation of stock market and of stock prices, and investment strategy for 1990.

In the third session Ross Rowbury, senior trader of Sanyo Securities Co. Ltd, spoke about investment timing improvement using the Sanyo Simus System and Japanese investors' methods of stock selection and timing of trading.

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Firms continue to declare dividends

Indices dip in both markets

THE Alshall index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday Jan 31, 1990 an average of 38.91 points with a decrease of 0.14 point — 0.36 per cent — from last week's average of Wednesday Jan 24, 1990. The Alshall index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 66.98 points with a decrease of 0.45 point — 0.67 per cent — for the same period, according to Alshall weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 5.65 million shares at a daily average of 1.13 million shares with a decrease of 63 per cent from the previous week's daily average of 3.04 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 6.120 million shares at a daily average of 1.224 million shares with a decrease of 30 per cent over last week's daily average of 1.740 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD2.41 million at a daily average of KD0.48 million, a decrease of 59 per cent from last week's daily average of KD1.16 million.

The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.307 million at a daily average of KD0.061 million, an increase of 5 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.058 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 51 per cent of total trading against 59 per cent last week. The National Bank of Kuwait had the lead at 38 per cent, followed by The Commercial Bank at 17 per cent and The Gulf Bank at 16 per cent. The Investment Sector came second at 27 per cent, in which, Coast Investment and Development Company had the lead at 68 per cent, followed by Kuwait Investment Projects Company at 32 per cent.

The industrial sector came third at 9 per cent, in which, Gulf Cables had the lead at 69 per cent followed by The National Industries had the lead at 31 per cent. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain International Bank had the lead at 56 per cent followed by Arabian General Investment Company (SHUAA) at 41 per cent, and Bahrain Middle East Bank and by Bahrain Projects at 3 per cent.

The market showed signs of mixed performance which was reflected on five out of six indices and in both markets. We expect that outside intervention will try to activate the market during the present period which will last for a month or a little more taking into consideration that this year's cycle of slow activity will take a longer period than previous cycles because the slow activity started before the end of last year.

Kuwait shareholding companies Index

	Wed. 31/01/90	Wed. 24/01/90	Change points
Banking Sector			
The National Bk	121.52	121.52	—
The Gulf Bk	29.26	29.70	-0.44
The Comm. Bk	23.27	23.71	-0.44
Al Ahli Bk	32.80	32.80	—
Bk of Kt & ME	30.97	30.97	—
Kuwait R. Est. Bk	27.86	28.29	-0.43
Burgan Bk	25.60	25.81	-0.21
Kt Finance House	74.15	74.98	-0.82

Sector Index	47.44	47.57	-0.24
Inv. Sector			
Kuwait Inv. Co.	9.55	9.55	—
Kt. Int. Inv. Co.	8.50	8.50	—
IFA	28.31	28.31	—
Comm. Facilities	151.25	151.25	—
National Inv.	57.84	57.84	—
Kt. Inv. Proj.	89.89	89.89	—
Coast Inv. & Dev.	94.12	94.12	—
Sector Index	32.78	32.78	—
Ins. Sector			
Kt. Ins. Co.	35.88	35.88	—
Gulf Ins. Co.	23.08	23.08	—
Al Ahleia Ins.	50.84	50.84	—
Warba Ins. Co.	50.69	50.69	—
Sector Index	35.74	35.74	—
Real Est. Sec.			
Kt. Real Est.	15.04	15.04	—
Utd. Realty	5.04	5.10	-0.06
Nat. Real Est.	39.42	39.42	—
Pearl of Kt.	63.49	63.49	—
Sector Index	15.96	15.99	-0.03
Ind. Sector			
Kt. Cmt. Co.	11.45	11.45	—
Ref. Ind.	84.55	84.55	—
Gulf Cables	116.52	117.65	-1.13
Kt. Pharm.	60.44	60.44	—
Sector Index	30.24	30.37	-0.13
Services Sector			
Kt. Cmptr. Co.	151.20	151.20	—
Kt. Cinema Co.	9.51	9.51	—
Pub. Whousg Co.	60.61	60.61	—
Kt. Comm. M.Co.	35.45	34.07	1.38
M. Tele. Syst.	328.57	328.57	—
Sector Index	57.91	57.78	0.13
Food Sector			
L. Trad. & Transp.	29.29	29.29	—
Utd. Fisheries	11.05	11.05	—
Kt. Utd. Poultry	110.01	110.01	—
Kt. Food Co.	74.71	74.71	—
Sector Index	39.68	39.68	—
Overall Index	38.91	39.05	-0.14

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies Index

	Wed. 31/01/90	Wed. 24/01/90	Change points
First G. Bk.	236.84	236.84	—
Bah. Intl. Bk.	89.66	91.03	-1.38
Bah. M.E. Bk.	94.92	93.97	0.95
A. Gen. Inv. (Shua)	43.18	43.94	-0.76
Umm Al Q. Cmt.	17.25	17.25	—
G. Med. Projs.	13.13	13.13	—
Total Index	66.98	67.43	-0.45

— Base period 31/12/1983.

— All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

Opec cuts oil output

LONDON, Feb 3, (Reuters): Opec cut its crude oil output in January from an eight-year high touched at the end of 1989 but not by very much, industry sources said yesterday.

A Reuters survey estimated that wellhead production by the 13 members averaged 23.25 million barrels per day (bpd) in January compared with a revised 23.9 million for December.

But it was still above the 22.1 million bpd supply ceiling set by the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries for the first half of 1990.

Some industry executives say Opec may need to make further output reductions to stop prices from easing in coming weeks.

"But we are not talking a price collapse," one added.

The executives said one or \$1.50 more could be lost off the price before seasonal gasoline demand in the northern summer leads a recovery.

North Sea Brent crude, a world benchmark, is now around \$20 per barrel. It briefly topped \$23 early in January when cold weather drove up US heating oil demand.

The monthly Reuters output survey uses information from industry and shipping sources.

The biggest cut in January — to two million bpd from 2.4 million — turned out to have been made by the United Arab Emirates. It cut largely to avoid damaging its reservoirs.

Other Gulf heavyweights Iran and Iraq were within quota. Nigeria cut at least 150,000 bpd to around 1.65 million to 1.7 million — still slightly above its quota.

A drop in Soviet supply also tightened the market although Western sources cast statistics on that dubious.

One industry official said lower Soviet exports to East and West Europe may be giving Opec to 500,000 bpd of extra business.

But with most of the northern winter now over and refiners cutting the volume of crude which they process, traders said that buyer resistance may force Middle East output lower.



Familiarisation trip

A group of nine students of Skyline Institute of Boodal Aviation undergoing "Advanced Diploma in Travel & Tourism Management" visited various sections of traffic department of Kuwait Airways on Saturday on a familiarisation trip to airport. The Training & Development Department & Commercial Department of KAC extended full support for enhancing professionalism in aviation industry.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Al Sudasiyah Auto Spare Parts Co. w.L.L.
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Mr. Narinder Singh Sethi
Indian national

no longer represents the two companies and is not authorised to deal on their behalf inside and outside Kuwait as from 16/11/1989. The two companies are therefore not responsible for any dealing or action carried out by him on behalf of the two companies, as from the abovementioned date.

Brazilian financial scandal

Officials, US bank executives accused

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb 3, (UPI): Police have asked for criminal charges to be filed against 23 people, including five US executives of the Bank of America, in connection with a financial scandal involving Latin America's largest agricultural co-operative, court sources said yesterday.

The request stemmed from a six-year investigation of financial activities involving the co-operative headquarters of rural producers of Rio Grande Do Sul between 1979 and 1982.

The organisation, known as Centralsul, is considered to be the largest agricultural industrial co-operative in Latin America, exporting corn, soybeans, meat and leather from its base in Porto Alegre, some 2,000 miles (3,200 km) south of Rio de Janeiro.

Police, concluding their investigation Thursday, turned over a report to Brazilian courts accusing the 23 bank

executives and local financiers of financial "irregularities" in their dealings with Centralsul.

The irregularities allegedly included tax evasion, over — and under-valuing exports and reckless speculation on the Chicago commodities market. The report said the actions pushed a majority of the 80 companies that comprise Centralsul near or into bankruptcy.

Bank of America president Joel Korn, a US citizen who police said should be charged in the case, told the Sao Paulo newspaper Folha that the incidents reported in the police papers "occurred before my arrival in Brazil in 1981."

"The Bank of America has always been above-board in all its dealings," he told the newspaper. He said the Bank of America had "handed over all the data necessary in the investigation."

Fernao Bracher, a former president of the Brazilian Central Bank who was also accused, said the request for formal judicial proceedings from police "has neither feet nor head" and that the investigations had "continued in an arbitrary and erroneous form."

Peter Magnani, a Bank of America vice president at the company's headquarters in San Francisco, said the police officer who sought the prosecution "is the same officer who said there was no criminal activity in 1986."

"It appears to us that this action was brought because of local political pressures from people who wish to continue civil actions," he said.

Magnani said the Bank of America and the Brazilian Central Bank investigated the allegations when they surfaced in 1983 "and we both concluded there was no wrongdoing on the part of Bank of America."

The allegedly illegal activities mentioned in the police investigation included \$30 million in loans by the Bank of America to the co-operative that apparently never arrived in Brazil. The report said the loan was deposited in Centralsul's account at the Bank of America branch in Houston.

Magnani was unable to respond to specifics in the charges, including what happened to the \$30 million and then, seemingly, disappeared. "That was before my time," he said.

The police report also said companies belonging to Centralsul filed suit in 1987 against the Bank of America, calling for the return of \$140 million allegedly diverted to Houston, the report said that case ended in 1987 with a settlement in which the Bank of America forgave \$22 million in Centralsul debt.

Violence hits share prices in Pakistan

KARACHI, Pakistan, Feb 3. (Reuters): Share prices have fallen on Pakistan's main stock exchange and dealers blamed renewed ethnic violence in Sind province.

They said the fall on the Karachi exchange in the past week was temporary and discounted the current war of words with India over Kashmir as a cause.

"It has nothing to do with Kashmir," one dealer said. "Riots, curfews and internal politics are responsible for the dive," another broker said.

The share price index fell to 1,588 at close of business on Thursday, from 1,615 a week ago and 1,632 on January 17, an exchange spokesman said. Chemical, sugar and cement shares dived and turnover dropped to about a million shares compared with 1.2 million on January 24 and 1.9 on January 17.

Emphasised still seemed to be on selling rather than buying as the new trading week began today "take, take," shouted a broker with his hands raised to attract buyers but exchange president Jahangir Siddiqi said there was no panic selling.

At least 15 people have died in violence between native Sindhis and Mohajir immigrants in Hyderabad since Tuesday.

Authorities imposed a curfew on part of Sind's second largest city to suppress rioting which has cost more than 1,050 lives in the province since 1986.

Barclays official to visit Gulf

ONE of the senior most managers of Barclays Bank Travellers Cheques — Richard Thomas Butt, CRSD — director responsible for Travellers Cheques and Credit Cards worldwide will be visiting the Gulf Region for the first time. His visit reflects Barclays Bank's commitment towards the region and its goal to foster closer ties.

Butt will be accompanied by Peter Graham Haward, Barclays Visa Travellers Cheques Director — marketing and sales, who has visited the region on three previous occasions always renewing his commitments in the Middle East and Andrew P. Campbell — regional director — Middle East and Indian sub-continent, who has been transferred from Barclays Tokyo to expand the Bahrain office and provide strong support to the Gulf region.

They will be touring Saudi Arabia from 2nd to 5th Feb, Kuwait 5th and 6th Feb, UAE 2nd and 7th Feb and Bahrain on Feb 8.

Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Feb 3 (Kumal): Following are the average K.D. interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait		
Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-7.8	8-8.8
3 months	8-7.8	8-8.8
6 months	8-7.16	8-11.16
1 year	8-7.16	8-11.16

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee		0.17250
Sri Lanka rupee		0.07360
Pakistan rupee		0.13710
Bangladesh taka		0.08950
US dollar		291.400
Pound sterling		492.250
A.E. Dirham		0.97910
Deutsche mark		17.1550
Japanese yen		0.02012

US economy is not sliding into recession

NEW YORK, Feb 3, (UPI): The Commerce Department reported this week that the index of leading indicators, a set of 11 economic measures used to forecast economic activity, rose a strong 0.8 per cent in December.

This sharp rise, after a mere 0.1 per cent gain in November and a drop of 0.3 per cent in October, led analysts to say the economy may emerge from its sluggishness without falling into a recession.

The report, released Wednesday, was the strongest since April, when the index also climbed 0.8 per cent.

However, the National Association of Purchasing Management said Thursday that US economic growth continued to decline in January for the ninth straight month and at the greatest rate of decline since December 1982.

The purchasing managers' index fell in January to 45.2 per cent down from 46.7 per cent in December.

A reading below 50 generally indicates the

manufacturing segment of the economy is experiencing a decline in growth.

The association also revised the index for December down to 46.7 per cent, from the 48 per cent reported in January to take into account seasonal adjustment factors used by the Department of Commerce.

On Friday, the government said demand for airplanes, ships and military tanks sent factory orders up 1.9 per cent in December for a second monthly rebound after a disappointing October.

The \$4.5 billion surge to \$244.2 billion followed a 2.4 per cent increase in November and a 0.1 per cent drop in October, the Commerce Department said. Factory orders finished 1989 at \$2.8 trillion, 6.4 per cent ahead of 1988.

Analysts said the data was another indication that the economy is not sliding into a recession, and that the increase suggests the possibility of a steadier pattern of activity in the industrial sector, which has been weaker for the past several months.

Also Friday, the government reported January's mild weather boosted construction employment to offset jobs lost at temporarily idled auto plants, keeping the civilian unemployment rate unchanged since June at 5.3 per cent.

The Labour Department's Bureau of Labour Statistics reported that 6.5 million Americans were unemployed last month.

The nation's largest retailer, Chicago-based Sears, Roebuck and Co., said same-store sales were up 3.3 per cent, while No. 2 K Mart Corp. of Troy, Michigan, said same-store sales rose 3.1 per cent. Fast-growing

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. of Bentonville, Arkansas, posted a comparable-store gain of 10 per cent.

On Wall Street, John J. Phelan Jr announced Thursday he is resigning as chairman and chief executive officer of the New York Stock Exchange at the end of the year.

Phelan, who has headed the exchange for six years, ruled out taking a government post at this time, quashing rumours that had swept the financial markets for two days that he would replace US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady.

No successor was named, and the board appointed a transition committee to make recommendations to the board this fall.

As chairman, Phelan saw the market through the insider trading scandals that shook Wall Street in the late 1980s and through its biggest loss ever when the Dow Jones industrial average plummeted 508 points Oct 19, 1987.

Phelan said he did not have any specific

plans, but said he hopes there will be "another career out there for me."

Stocks closed higher Friday as a new burst of takeover activity and a more upbeat perception of the economy fuelled a rally, helping the Dow to close just above the key 2600 level, at 2602.70.

Stocks closed mixed in quiet trading Thursday, with the blue chips pressured by profit taking after a 47-point rally Wednesday. It was the market's biggest rally since its surge to record highs Jan 2.

Stocks closed lower Tuesday and closed broadly lower Monday in moderate trading. Before computerised buying kicked in, the Dow industrials were down about 25 points led by a slump in takeover-related issues.

Analysts blamed the selloff in so-called "dead" stocks on severe weakness in the junk-bond market. The bonds of RJR Holdings Capital, issued to finance last year's \$25 billion leveraged buyout of RJR Nabisco, the largest ever, were down sharply

after Moody's investors' service downgraded the bonds.

On the oil market, the government reported Thursday that the difference between the price refineries paid for crude oil and the amount they charged for heating oil made from crude, soared fourfold during the recent December freeze.

But the energy information administration in its report to Congress noted it was "too early to translate these (margins) into profits."

The EIA report was made in response to congressional concerns and northeast governors' questions of how much profits rose and who profited from the near-record December cold snap and rise in consumer heating oil prices.

It noted that margins do not account for refining, distribution, transportation, storage and other costs, nor reflect the actual volume of product sold.

US wants lower rates: Brady

Inflation will continue to hover around 4pc mark

WASHINGTON, Feb 3, (UPI): The administration would like to see lower long-term interest rates. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady said Friday in remarks before the congressional joint economic committee.

Brady said it is "unfortunate" that recent increases in interest rates in Germany and Japan will "create an uptick in rates of 30-year US bonds."

He also acknowledged that differences exist between the administration and the Federal Reserve over the direction of interest rates.

"I think the administration probably has a bias toward (economic) growth that is greater than the Fed," he said.

Lower interest rates stimulate business activity and consumer buying. "Obviously we'd like lower long-term interest rates," Brady said.

For more than a year, the Fed has tightened credit in an effort

to slow economic growth and keep inflation under control. At the same time, the Central Bank has been trying to avoid driving the economy into a recession.

Recent economic indicators have shown that the Central Bank has been successful in engineering this so-called soft landing.

But in recent weeks, differences have surfaced between the administration and the Federal Reserve after White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater called upon the Fed to lower rates.

Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan, in congressional testimony, called Fitzwater's comment "inappropriate."

Brady, who meets weekly with Greenspan, termed his discussions with the Fed chairman as "vigorous" but declined to disclose the subject of the talks.

"With all due respect, the subject of my discussions with Greenspan is something best

kept between he and I," Brady said.

On other matters, Brady said he agreed with Greenspan's assessment that the probability of a recession within the next six months has declined. He said the economy is stable, but added that inflation will continue to hover around the 4 per cent mark.

"The US economy is now in its eighth year of sustained real growth, a record peacetime expansion, during which output gains have averaged 4 per cent annually," Brady said.

Growth has been sustained internationally, as well, Brady said, with a 3 per cent economic expansion forecast for the industrial members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Brady also said ties between the United States and Japan are "increasingly close," noting that Japan is now the nation's second-largest trading partner after Canada.

Inventories dip

US factory orders rise

WASHINGTON, Feb 3, (AP): Orders to US factories for manufactured goods rose 1.9 per cent in December and closed out the year up 6.4 per cent, the government reported today.

The Commerce Department said orders for both durable and non-durable manufactured goods totalled a seasonally adjusted \$244.2 billion in the final month of 1989 after rising 2.4 per cent in November.

The increase put orders for the year at \$2.83 trillion after a 9.7 per cent increase in 1988, the largest since 1983.

Durable goods were up 5.9 per cent for the year, following gains of 11 per cent in 1988 and 7.6 per cent in 1987.

For much of the year, Federal Reserve interest rate policies held back orders for durable goods — big-ticket items expected to last more than three years — because many of those goods are financed through loans.

But durable goods orders started to perk up late this fall and jumped 4.6 per cent in November and 3.2 per cent in December.

After the December report, analysts said it appeared the manufacturing sector of the economy was stabilizing.

But the manufacturing sluggishness through much of 1989 was reflected in the report's figures for the entire year: While durable goods orders rose 5.9 per cent to \$1.52 trillion, they advanced at their slowest pace since a 0.4 per cent gain in 1986.

In addition to new orders, the Commerce Department

said shipments of manufactured goods fell 0.5 per cent in December to \$271.8 billion, while inventories dropped 0.4 per cent to \$31.5 billion.

If inventories increase without a corresponding gain in new orders, it could signal production cutbacks in the future as factories attempt to get rid of goods on shelves and back logs.

Orders for durable goods rose 3.2 per cent in December to \$134.4 billion, paced by transportation equipment which was up 11.2 per cent to 40.9 billion.

Large increases in aircraft, shipbuilding and tanks more than offset a decline in motor vehicles, the department said. Without the transportation category, orders would have edged up 0.2 per cent.

Electrical machinery orders increased 5 per cent to \$22.7 billion, offsetting a decline of 4.7 per cent in non-electrical machinery to 21.6 billion.

Primary metals orders were down 3.8 per cent to \$10.8 billion.

The often-volatile defence orders were off 11.6 per cent to 9.96 billion. Excluding defence, orders would have been up 2.5 per cent.

Non-durable orders were up 0.3 per cent to \$109.9 billion, led by a large increase in petroleum products.

In the key category of non-defence capital goods, a barometer of business investment plants, orders rose 18 per cent in December to \$45.9 billion.

Currency fund launched

SCIMITAR, the investment arm of Standard Chartered Bank, launched a Bermuda-based Guaranteed Currency Fund on Thursday.

The offer period of the Fund closes on March 9.

This latest Fund from Scimitar provides international investors with the opportunity for excellent capital growth by trading in the currency markets, whilst guaranteeing that the original investment remains intact.

The manager is Scimitar Fund Management (Bermuda) Limited with administration provided by the Bank of Bermuda. (tel. 809) 295 2302. Money invested in advance of the closing date will earn interest. The Fund is closed-ended with a 7-year life but early redemptions are possible after the first six months of trading.

Further information may be obtained from Scimitar Asset Management Ltd in London or any branch of Standard Chartered Bank.

Stocks and dollar firm

NEW YORK, Feb 3, (Reuters): Wall Street stocks and the dollar rose yesterday as government figures suggested the US economy remains sluggish but is not about to enter a recession.

US treasury bonds were depressed by the unexpectedly strong 275,000 gain in January non-farm jobs. Economists said the Federal Reserve was unlikely to act any time soon to lower interest rates to boost the economy.

Also reinforcing this view was a 1.9 per cent increase in December factory orders.

She said the United States urgently needed

agreement on protecting intellectual property rights since violations by other countries of US patents and copyrights were costing it about \$60 billion a year.

Hills also criticised Japan for doing too little to open its markets to foreign businesses. "I don't think economies that take advantage of open markets elsewhere but make it difficult for others trying to enter their markets are exemplary for creating a trading system," she said.

She said Washington was pressing Japan to open its markets to foreign-made satellites and super computers and remove discriminatory standards and high tariffs for forestry products and semi-conductors.

Hills believed it might be possible to bring the sensitive issue of textiles into the Uruguay round agreement, setting a transition period of several years for dismantling barriers.

World Bank President Barber Conable said industrialised countries were guilty of setting up barriers to prevent imports from developing countries of items such as shoes, agricultural produce and textiles.

Mexico to sign debt reduction pact

MEXICO CITY, Feb 3, (UPI): Mexico will sign tomorrow a crucial agreement with its foreign commercial lenders to significantly reduce — by some \$13 billion — the country's \$93 billion external debt, a senior official said yesterday.

Jose Angel Gurria, deputy finance minister for international affairs, said the agreement will cover the reduction of the debt's principal, the lowering of interest rates, and options to get new loans.

"The economic impact of the accord would mean that Mexico has only an \$80 billion foreign debt," Gurria said, commenting on the long-term financial impact of the international agreement.

Gurria, Mexico's chief negotiator with the country's foreign lenders, said the Central American nation's total foreign debt currently stood at \$93 billion, down from \$100 billion in 1988.

The agreement will be signed tomorrow between the Mexican government and a 15-member bank advisory committee representing about 450 foreign commercial lenders.

A Mexican Finance Ministry spokesman said a US government delegation, headed by US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, will attend the signing ceremony. The



Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Swiss Economics Minister Jean Pascal Delamuraz shake hands after signing a debt reduction pact. Gurria said the agreement will cover the reduction of the debt's principal, the lowering of interest rates, and options to get new loans.

debt reduction negotiations fall under the so-called Brady Plan aimed at helping rescue the Mexican economy.

Gurria estimated the agreement will allow Mexico to reduce its annual repayments by \$3 billion in 1990.

Mexico last year disbursed \$12 billion in much needed hard currencies to service its debt. Annual debt service will be reduced to \$9 billion after the signing.

Under the agreement, Mexico hopes to lower the amount required to service its foreign debt to 2.9 per cent of its gross domestic product in 1990 and 2.3 per cent in 1991 down from 6 per cent in 1989, Mexican officials said.

Mexico's gross domestic product in 1989 was \$200 billion.

Although it falls short of Mexico's initial expectations, the agreement will reduce Mexico's \$48.5 billion medium-term commercial debt by \$1 billion.

The debt reduction agreement includes three options that the lending banks can decide to exercise under the restructuring plan for the \$48.5 billion commercial debt.

Gulf economic indicators

GDP growth quickens

ECONOMIC indicators for 1989 point to a more promising outlook than at any time since the beginning of the oil-driven recession in 1983. Higher oil revenues and a slight uptrend in domestic activities brought forth faster growth in the region's gross domestic product estimated at around 3.5 per cent in 1989, according to GIB monthly report.

Export prices of crude oil from the Gulf rose to an average of \$16 a barrel last year compared to \$13.4 a barrel in 1988, an increase of around 20 per cent. The major oil exporting countries of the region boosted their average daily oil production by more than 18 per cent.

This together with higher non-oil exports of petrochemicals, aluminium and other industrial products reflected positively on the external balances of the Gulf countries. Larger current account surpluses are estimated for Kuwait and the UAE while the current account deficits recorded in 1988 by the other Gulf countries are believed to have narrowed to more manageable levels in 1989.

Rising oil revenues and the improvement in the geopolitical atmosphere world-wide reflected positively on the overall level of confidence in the region.

Optimism is returning to the trading and transport sectors while industries that have been for years operating below full capacity are now experiencing an upturn in activities.

Even though construction is no more than thriving sector it is used to be, yet sizeable contracts were still available in certain areas, particularly in defence projects, industry and housing.

There are signs that the private sector has started looking more actively at investment opportunities in the region with a resurgence in demand for commercial bank credit, a noticeable increase in the number of applications to industrial development funds for loans to build new plants and expand existing ones, a modest rally in the real estate markets and higher stock prices in most Gulf countries.

Inflation edged up in 1989 after several years of decline, with the rise in such domestic factors as money supply, government expenditures, rents, wages and prices of services boosting overall consumer prices.

This came partly as a reflection of the turnaround in domestic economic activities and therefore was more apparent in some Gulf countries (e.g. the UAE) than in others.

Both Bahrain and Oman opened stock exchanges during the year and regulated security trading. Share prices in Saudi Arabia surged higher, with market indices recording a rise of around 22 per cent for the year.

However, volume remained very light with the annual rate of turnover less than 5 per cent. Share prices in the UAE and Oman were up while those in Kuwait remained generally subdued over the course of the year.

With cost cutting and much of the bad loan provisioning behind them, Gulf commercial banks reported a general rise in profitability for 1988 and this trend continued in 1989.

During the year, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Kuwait pressed ahead with plans to raise their oil production

KUWAIT 1988									
POPULATION (Million)	DENSITY (Per Sq Km)	% OF EXPATRIATE POPULATION	% OF POPULATION	POPULATION GROWTH	FERTILITY RATE PER WOMAN	% OF FEMALES IN LABOR FORCE	% OF TOTAL EXPENSES	% OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT	% OF TOTAL RESERVES
1.96	110	60.0%	60.0%	4.8%	5.4%	7.0%	67.0%	5.0%	2.0%
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMERICAL BANK CREDIT BY SECTOR									
1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
AGRICULTURE	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
MANUFACTURING	3.9%	3.5%	3.2%	2.9%	2.6%	2.3%	2.0%	1.7%	1.4%
MINING	17.3%	16.6%	16.2%	16.2%	17.0%	17.3%	17.3%	17.3%	17.3%
CONSTRUCTION	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%
COMMERCE & TRADE	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%
FINANCE	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%
PERSONAL	3.1%	3.1%	3.0%	2.9%	2.7%	2.5%	2.3%	2.1%	1.9%
GOVT & OTHERS	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%
TOTAL (\$ Million)	13,140	12,496	14,827	14,811	17,140	14,620			

RELATIVE MARKET SHARES OF TRADING PARTNERS (%)									
1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
ITALY	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
JAPAN	17.3%	17.3%	17.3%	17.3%	17.3%	17.3%	17.3%	17.3%	17.3%
U.S.A.	10.1%	10.1%	10.1%	10.1%	10.1%	10.1%	10.1%	10.1%	10.1%
U.K.	7.4%	7.4%	7.4%	7.4%	7.4%	7.4%	7.4%	7.4%	7.4%
FRANCE	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMERCIAL BANK CREDIT BY SECTOR									
	1982	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
AGRICULTURE	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
MANUFACTURING	3.9%	3.5%	2.9%	2.5%	3.0%	2.7%	2.4%	2.1%	1.9%
MINING	17.3%	16.6%	16.2%	16.2%	17.0%	17.2%	17.2%	17.2%	17.2%
CONSTRUCTION	26.7%	24.0%	22.2%	21.3%	20.8%	20.4%	20.1%	20.1%	20.1%
COMMERCE & TRADE	26.0%	26.6%	26.6%	27.5%	28.2%	27.6%	27.6%	27.6%	27.6%
FINANCE	24.2%	24.2%	24.2%	24.2%	24.2%	24.2%	24.2%	24.2%	24.2%
PERSONAL	3.1%	3.1%	3.0%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%
GOVT & OTHERS	3.1%	3.1%	3.0%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%
TOTAL (\$ Million)	13,140	12,496	14,522	14,811	17,140	16,420	16,420	16,420	16,420



Prepared for the worst

This driver, on the old Cairo-Alexandria road, is prepared for the worst. He has two spare tyres and a donkey tied to the back of his truck. (Reuters wire-photo)

Russian actress welcomes emigre competition

HOLLYWOOD. (UPI): Long before Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms in the Soviet Union, Leeza Vinnichenko came up with her own version of glasnost by fleeing to the West.

The blonde, round-faced, plump actress needs only a bubushka to complete the picture of a Russian peasant, a character she has been playing in Hollywood movies and TV shows for more than 20 years.

For years the native of Nalchick on the Black Sea was the only Soviet-born actress working regularly in American films — a distinction that has been a mixed blessing.

"I have always been called in when a role required a Russian woman," she said. "But many times the parts went to American actresses putting on accents, Oriental, Mexican and Indian actors are protesting against such practices, but there aren't enough Russians to make a noise for casting ethnic performers."

"There were countless Russian roles I didn't get, so I have been obliged to play other ethnic minorities, including all kinds of Europeans. I couldn't eat if I depended on playing Russians."

"Anyhow, most Russian parts call for villains and almost all of them are men." She has played French, Germans, Scandinavians even an American doctor in an episode of "Doogie Howser, M.D."

"I was cast in the only colour episode of a 'Perry Mason' TV show, playing a Mexican woman with a black wig. Because of my blue eyes there were not too many closeups."

Most often, however, she plays women named Freda, Svetlana, Helga and Olga. With the advent of glasnost, Vinnichenko finds herself coming out of the closet.

"For my whole career I was in the closet," she said. "I arrived as an actress at the time of the McCarthy hearings when all things Russian were suspect and looked down upon. I did not advertise the fact I was Russian."

Now that she is able to speak proudly of her heritage, Vinnichenko expects more acting competition from Soviet immigrants who find their way to Hollywood. She does what she can to help them find agents and make contacts.

"There are only about five competent Russian actresses in town right now," she said. "There are many more actors."

"But no Russian has become really prominent since Leonid Kinskey and Mischky Auer."

"There will be more Russians coming to Hollywood, but the difficulty is that the main tool of the actor is language. It is terribly hard for an adult Russian to learn to speak English without an accent."

For example there is Savely Kramarov, who was Russia's biggest superstar, a favourite of the Kremlin. He is here now but he can only find small roles. The same is true of Vladimir Skomarovsky. He was very famous in the Soviet Union.

"Vladimir is a genius, but cannot prove it in Hollywood films. He is Jewish. It is easier for Russian Jews to get out of the country than it is for non-Jews. As far as I know, I'm the only Russian actress here who is not Jewish."

hang around with other Russians," she said. "Yakov Smirnoff prefers the company of Americans because he must keep abreast of cultural trends, gossip and expressions for his comedy act."

"There is a different mentality among Russians when they isolate themselves. We're a very strange breed. We are not as supportive of one another as other minority groups. That's because we come from deprivation and shortages."

Russians establish themselves and are afraid new arrivals from the Soviet Union will take things like jobs away from them. They feel the newcomers' success will diminish the possibility of their success.

"I don't want to sound lofty or self-satisfied. It is only because I have been in America long enough to think and feel like an American."

"I've been here since 1955 so I suppose I am mother Russia in Hollywood. The new arrivals know who I am and come to me for help."

"The more Americans give to someone else, the more they have for themselves. I am American citizen."

Stars making big business on the side

If you find yourself in need of a dried flower bouquet or hand-made cowboy boots, Robert Redford will be happy to oblige.

For the former Sundance Kid has launched a Sundance mail order catalogue selling both, among other things — and joined the growing movement of movie stars with a second business on the side.

The bouquet (yours for \$25), and boots (to you, a mere \$299) are competing with such merchandise as Joan Collins's costume jewellery to convince us they are star buys.

Eating like a star — or like a star would have you eat offers even more choice. On the menu are Paul Newman's salad dressing, Frank Sinatra's pasta sauce, Sammy Davis's condiments, Ken Kercheval's pop corn and pickles from Mash's Jamie Farr, who plays Klingor.

But the competition is hottest in the perfume market where newcomers Muhammad Ali and Debbie Gibson are joining Liz Taylor, Cher, Linda Evans, Joan Collins, Bjorn Borg, and John Forsythe in pursuit of the sweet smell of commercial success.

Priscilla Presley is believed to be working on a fragrance of her own while Julio Iglesias talks after shave with a bunch of money men.

Fitness, too, has become a big earner for the shapely likes of Jane Fonda, Raquel Welch, Victoria Principal and Linda Evans with their advice books, records and videos.

While Liz Taylor has proved if you are big enough you can have your cake and eat it, with her book Elizabeth Takes Off. She watched the cash pour into her bank account as fast as the pounds were returning to her frame when she abandoned her diet after divorce.

Elizabeth Takes Off again cannot yet be ruled out.

The whole point of star selling is that we are being offered not just a pair of earrings or bottle of scent but a dream. Eat it, wear it, read it, watch it, at a price that is beautiful, successful, rich, glamorous.

That hyper-sensitive workaholic with the Midas touch, Joan Collins, has even tried her hand at novel writing with Prime Time. The critics panned it, but they did not stop her

earning £2 million from it — and that is before the paperback or the mini-series.

Now, without even waiting for that second or third bonanza, the 56-year-old who was reluctant for years to admit her true age, is working not on the sequel but on the prequel, Star Quality. She has already banked a 1 million pound advance.

Joan has known rich and poor and likes rich better.

In the low days before she relaunched her career with the help of sister Jackie's books, The Bitch and The Stud, she remembers doing queues in an old scarf with people still recognising her and saying, "Didn't you use to be Joan Collins?"

She says: "I vowed I would never end my days begging for handouts. That now looks unlikely."

The Catch 22 is that you have to ride the crest of a career wave to give your sideline lift-off and when you are earning big bucks you need strong motivation like dole queue memories to put in the extra working hours.

Joan says it was an incident in a Greek restaurant that convinced her there was a market for stylish costume jewellery.

She made a scene when she thought she had lost a £30,000 diamond bracelet then found it in her handbag. She says: "It convinced me to start my own line in costume jewellery. I couldn't stand the worry of losing anything valuable."

Worry her it might but it would not break her. For, on top of her huge acting and authoring incomes and the jewellery profits, she is pulling in £100,000 a year for endorsing Scoundrel's best and based, he says, on his own recipes.

More than £2 million has gone into his pet project, The Hole In The Wall Gang Camp, for children with leukemia and other cancers, named after the bunch of villains who co-starred with him and Redford in Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Kid.

The 90 children at a time who visit the camp for 14 days pay nothing for their stay. Newman meets the costs, with a little bit of help from anyone he can persuade. "I'll do anything to get funds for it," Newman says.

(two versions, his and hers) from giant billboards, magazine covers, television chat shows, and hastily-created platforms draped with purple in small town department stores.

Then she expanded the operation on to an even larger stage — the world. But when a London fan, obviously with Joan Collins in mind, asked her if she would be launching her own line in jewellery next, she got a quick fire put down.

"I like my jewellery launched at me," she replied.

Paul Newman's food company, Newman's Own, began in a small way when friends admired his salad dressing and suggested he market it. Profits have soared to £5 million in the last four years.

But none of it goes in to his own pocket. He gives every cent from Newman's Own spaghetti sauce, salad dressing, popcorn and Old Fashioned Roadside Lemonade to 250 charities he supports.

There can be unexpected hazards in going into business, as Ken Kercheval, alias scheming Cliff Barnes of Dallas, discovered after he took up popcorn promotion.

His partner, Ed Phillips, tried to kill him before he turned his gun on himself in July. He actually emptied six bullets into the Dallas set before taking his own life.

Phillips had been voted out as president in April, 1988, when Ken won control. He believed Ken had

ruined his popcorn business and wrecked his marriage. Police found a hate letter to the actor in the dead man's pocket.

When Muhammad Ali takes the wraps off what he hopes will be his passport to some sweet-smelling pay cheques, he will be joining John Forsythe, whose aftershave spray is called Carrington, and Bjorn Borg, who has named his Bjorn Borg after himself.

But even if Julio Iglesias goes ahead and adds his splash-on aimed at "the romantic man," Ali will not be joining as cut-throat a market as that of the women's perfume war.

With a bigger potential market to go for, Ms Taylor's Passion and Ms Collins's Scoundrel are battling it out with Cher's spicy perfume. Uninhibited (which made her £1,300,000 last year), with Linda Evans's more subtle Forever Krystle.

Latest to join is Debbie Gibson, with the Priscilla Presley entry still on the drawing to keep her in crusts. She also made £700,000 last year from her Workout Book while former Dallas star Victoria Principal cashed in with The Only Principal to the tune of £1 million.

Music on record

ROCK

LITTLE RICHARD. "The Specialty Sessions" (Specialty, SPCD8308).

This three-disc CD retrospective of Little Richard's output (especially documents one of the wildest of all the early rockers in full, weird glory).

The package, which also exists as a five-LP set, consists of 73 tracks in chronological order, all recorded between 1955 and 1964. The box is of enormous historic value. It represents Richard's entire output for specialty, from his best-known hits such as "Tutti Frutti," "Good Golly Miss Molly" and "Long Tall Sally" to the most obscure tracks, outtakes, demos, recently discovered masters and between-takes banter.

Included are the original demos of "Baby" and "All Night Long," which got him signed to the label in 1955, rehearsals of "Slippin' and Slidin'," alternate takes of "Kansas City," and a series of radio commercials Richard did for Royal Crown hair dressing in the '50s.

The tracks are annotated extensively in a 32-page booklet, which also includes a historical overview and some vintage photos.

JAZZ

THE big Carla Bley Band, "Fleur Carnivore" (Waxwork, 839, 662-2).

Carla Bley revived her big band for a 1988 European tour that culminated with a recording at Copenhagen's Montmartre Jazz Club. While her sound and writing has very personal stamp, Bley's big band music is rooted heavily in the swing tradition. Much of the colouring and subtleties have an Ellington touch.

That is particularly evident on the title cut, which was commissioned to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Ellington's death. Structurally, the most intriguing offering is "Song of the Eternal Waiting of Canute," and not for the name. It blends a breezy flamenco feel with some tailgate call-and-response between trombonist Gary Valente and the brass section, and an ensemble horn sound that is downright gorgeous.

Bley and friends have come up with another winner. (UPI)

CLASSICAL

JAMES LEVINE, piano, ensemble Wien-Berlin. "Poulenc: Chamber Music" (Deutsche Grammophon, 427 639).

When you have a big wart on your nose, it's probably not a good idea to take life too seriously.

A psychobiography of Francois Poulenc in one sentence.

Whatever the reason, Poulenc, whose proboscis really was so adorned, composed amusing, sometimes outright funny music.

Some critics (the ones you hope you never meet at parties) mistake light-hearted for light-weight. It is no accident that one of Poulenc's more serious works, the "Concerto for Organ, Strings and Timpani," is called a masterpiece, while his witty "Concerto for Two Pianos" languishes.

Ensemble Wien-Berlin has produced a collection of five chamber works that shows what memorable music Poulenc could produce when aiming simply to entertain.

His "Trio for Piano, Oboe and Bassoon" is out-and-out funny. James Levine (yes, the same one who conducts at the Metropolitan opera), Hans Schellenberger and Milan Turkovic do it well.

"Sonata for Clarinet and Piano," more serious, is less appealing until its scampering finale. Karl Leister has nice clarinet tone.

"Sonata for Flute and Piano" is wonderful throughout, one of Poulenc's finest compositions and a highlight of classical music's flute repertoire. Wolfgang Schultz plays on flute, ably.

"Elégie" for horn and piano is a stunner. An ever-so-serious opening is interrupted by a motif so different and so wild it had to be a gag. Gunter Hogner solos.

All return for a "Sextet" that is billed as being influenced by Stravinsky, but which sounds more to this listener as if it reacts to Schoenberg's "chamber symphony," especially the famous horn call in rising fourths, which is quoted directly and at the same pitch in the finale.

A beautifully engineered recording, packed with more than 70 minutes of music. (UPI)

Fellag pokes fun at taboos

Algerians in stitches

ALGIERS. (Reuters): The Rolling eyes, elastic face and Chaplinesque quirks of comedian Mohammed Fellag have Algerians in stitches — in a country that badly needs a laugh.

"I don't spare anything," said Fellag with an impish grin after another packed house in the posh Riadh El-Feth recreational complex.

Fellag, 39, has made artistic history in Algeria by breaking one taboo after another in one-man plays that combine slapstick with sharp political satire.

Nothing escapes his wit, be it sex, religion, censorship, the one-party state that ruled Algeria for 27 years or the troubled democracy now replacing it.

Muslim fundamentalists went on the war-path after his 1989 play Cocktail Khortov was televised nationally and brought jokes about condoms into millions of Algerian homes.

After denunciations in the mosques, one anonymous letter read, "you are a Salman Rushdie. I am going to kill you."

Fellag remains unruffled and irrepressibly iconoclastic. His new play SOS La Bas (SOS everything's fine) is sold out a month in advance.

"I try to touch our taboos, to scratch where it hurts a little," he told Reuters. "I often talk about sex because I know it's an enormous hang-up with us, and you can't get to the Algerian soul without touching it."

Drifting in and out of French and Algerian Arabic as Algerians often do, Fellag presents his version of an evening on state television,

long the butt of jokes for its stale programming and strait-laced morality.

The newscaster keeps repeating, "everything is absolutely fine." But as the audience well knows, the economy is a mess, fundamentalism is on the rise and a nascent democracy sometimes looks like chaos.

Foreigners who do not know Algerians well often find them dull, and Fellag comments, "Algerians have an enormous potential to laugh that never found an outlet. The political system was just too serious," referring to the one-party socialist state created at independence from France in 1962.

One videotaped scene depicts a fictional Algerian space programme in which the astronaut never gets off the ground — but is convinced an extraterrestrial creature has stolen his burnouts.

Another shows Fellag the TV reporter wrapping up the day's fluctuations on "Wall Street" — an Algiers sidewalk crammed with black-market cassette players where the dinar is worth one-fifth its official value.

He wonders if Algeria is not becoming a banana republic — "without the bananas," a reference to the popular fruit's scarcity in Algerian stores.

An Algerian bewildered by the sudden outbreak of democracy seeks advice from his doctor.

"Every day there are strikes, and demonstrations, and a new political party. Everybody shouts all the time. Don't you have any pills to keep my head from spinning?" The patient complains.

"The only remedy is to form your own party," replies the doctor.

Fellag acts out courses for unemployed youths on how to pick up girls, and describes the housing minister's horror on seeing customs agents burn two million condoms.

"Every condom burned is another house to build," he laments, thinking of the country's demographic explosion.

Fellag shocked Algerians last year when he became the first to use his native Berber language on television. Berber, the original language of North Africa, has until recently been shunned in the media as part of an Arabisation policy.

There is one subject on which Fellag becomes quite serious — Islamic fundamentalism, the largest opposition force in Algeria, which he describes as "a threat to the development and balance of this society."

A hush overtakes the theatre when Fellag acts out the last scene, his own apocalyptic vision of a fundamentalist future.

"Did you hear they've bought the Berlin wall at an auction and put it back up in Algeria — with men on one side and women on the other?"

The men prove unable to care for themselves. Garbage, filth and disease overtake them while the women build a prosperous community full of sweet-smelling gardens.

As the curtain falls, Fellag is on the floor crying out across the wall: "Come back, forgive us, you can do anything you want."



Baby Sam is hugged by his mother Gillian with Bob Poutney.

Saved by the gentle angels from the sky

By Francis Hubbard

TINY SAM HARCUS, born 11 weeks prematurely, had just hours to live without urgent medical attention. But he was stranded with his parents on a remote island, miles from the specialist care he needed.

Then, help dropped from out of the sky. A Royal Air Force helicopter raced through thick fog to fly Sam to the mainland. Even though his heart stopped beating when equipment failed, the heroes from 202 Search and Rescue Squadron fought to keep him alive during the 80 mile journey.

A burly crewman gave the minute three and a half pound baby two-finger heart-massage.

Now Sam, and the men of 202 Squadron, are to star in a dramatic new 13-part ITV documentary called Rescue.

It will show survivors of the Piper Alpha disaster being winched, from the blazing North Sea oil-rig... the battle to save fishermen from a sinking boat in icy Atlantic waters... and the rescue of avalanche victims buried under feet of snow.

When I visited 202 Squadron's home at the Royal Air Force base in Lossiemouth, northern Scotland, I met the modest stars of what promises to be a blockbuster series.

The temperature was a numbing seven degrees centigrade below zero, typical of the winter weather in the bleak Scottish Highlands. The Search and Rescue crew are often called out in Arctic conditions to help people caught in gales and blizzards.

It was just such bitter weather when the helicopter team struggled to save the life of baby Sam. When he was born on the little Orkney island of Sanday, off the north-east coast of Scotland, dense fog had stopped all normal air and ferry services to the mainland.

To Sam's mother, 21-year-old Gillian, it was a miracle that the men from 202 Squadron managed to reach her that day. She told me: "I was desperate when

Sam arrived three months early and we couldn't find any way to reach a hospital.

"By the time the coastguard came to take Sam to the next island, where the helicopter was to pick him up, I was in shock and too upset to go on the boat with him. They got him to Kirkwall, in the Orkneys, somehow, and from there the helicopter flew him to Aberdeen."

Sam's lungs and heart were too immature to work properly without equipment, but the incubator and heart monitor brought over by the coastguard both failed on the flight. The RAF crew kept him alive with heart-massage and sheer will-power.

"It was four days before I was well enough to catch a flight to see him at the hospital. When I did, I was overwhelmed with gratitude to the men who saved his life. I can't say 'thank you' to them enough. They were great. Really brilliant."

"I went through a hard time to have Sam but he was worth it. My record is that he was born just 14 hours after I was married. I went into labour as the last guests from the wedding reception were leaving."

Sam, now a bouncing 17 months old, has completely recovered. His new baby sister Leah, aged four months, also had a dramatic start in life. She was born to Gillian and her fisherman husband Alan in the back of a bus.

Sadly, not all of the 202 Squadron rescues have the Harcus's happy ending. One of the most distressing calls that they had to answer while the documentary team was filming was the Piper Alpha oil-rig disaster.

On July 6, 1988, 165 men died when the oil platform, moored off the coast of Aberdeen, exploded into an inferno after sparks ignited a gas leak.

Although 62 men survived, it was the world's worst... disaster.

The call to "scramble" reached 202 Squadron minutes after the tragedy happened. Flight Lieutenant Pat Thirkell was in the second helicopter to arrive on the scene and he vividly remembers the events of that night.

He told me: "I was actually in the bath at home when I was alerted to go out. I broke all speed records to drive the 22 miles to the base in 15 minutes flat."

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

Immediate therapy for spine curvature

QUESTION: My daughter's school provides regular examinations by the school nurse to make sure that all is developing correctly. After just such an exam, I received a note from the nurse stating that my daughter was "developing a condition named 'scoliosis' and required a physician's examination. Please help me by explaining this condition in your column."

ANSWER: It is imperative that you take the advice of the school nurse and see your physician. Most of the cases of scoliosis (a medical name for curvature of the spine) are discovered in just such school screening examinations and medical referral is always indicated.

No one is sure just what the cause of scoliosis is, but we do know some important things. Young girls fall

prey to this condition about twice as frequently as boys and their curvature is usually worse. If there is a history of scoliosis in the family, the chance of a child developing it is about three times more likely.

Treatment will depend upon the amount of curvature detected on X-rays. If there's a curve of less than 20 degrees from normal, most cases are merely observed closely without any

treatment other than a programme of exercise, muscle stretching and strengthening.

A great number of different types of braces are now being used in the United States, and the use of lightweight plastic has made this type of treatment much more acceptable to youngsters, who can wear the braces under their clothing and have a great deal of freedom of motion.

Meet a neighbour

Bahrain's most popular hotelier

Mohammed Buzizi

By Yakub Razaque
Arab Times Staff

HOTEL business in Gulf is relatively a new industry just under two decades old. Traditionally Arabs, including Gulf nationals, have looked down upon this field to earn their livelihood. Generally Arab youth have been reluctant to pursue a career in the hotel and catering industry, which they tend to consider a 'low-grade and financially unrewarding occupation.' Conscious of their social status young Arabs are also not attracted to a service-oriented career which involves serving food, cooking and general chores.

However times are now changing. Development of tourism and the construction of an increasing number of hotels of all classes throughout the Gulf states have slowly but steadily been attracting young Gulf nationals to join this potentially rewarding industry. Nationalisation policy in the labour market, severe competition and limited employment options have also compelled some youngsters to have second thoughts and give this novel form of occupation as far as Gulf Arabs are concerned, a try.

Back in the sixties there were hardly any Bahrainis in the hotel business for the simple reason that there were no first class hotels in existence. But with the operation of the island's first genuine international hotel, the Gulf Hotel in 1970, a number of young nationals took the initiative to 'experiment' in this unknown career.

Mohammed Buzizi ranks among that first bunch of Bahraini pioneers in the hotel industry and today is generally regarded as the best known and

most popular hotelier in the country. This feat was achieved over the years by qualities of hard-work, perseverance and above all determination. For indeed Buzizi's climb to the pinnacle of his profession belongs to the realm of success-story where one works one's way from the mundane environment of a kitchen to the posh office of the general manager.

But what strikes out as an extraordinary brilliant fact is the way this enterprising young Bahraini managed to literally hire himself into his new place of work: A twist of reversed psychology was evident here on that day of job interview when instead

of being asked questions by the general manager, an Englishman, Buzizi ended up interviewing his prospective boss himself.

"I found myself doing most of the talking and asking more questions simply because I wanted to find out what kind of career I was getting into. It may have been an unusual approach but I only wanted to ensure I was making the right career decision," reminisced Buzizi.

After the initial shock of being interviewed died down, the English hotel boss was deeply impressed by this young man's extraordinary approach to a job interview session and offered him a position in the hotel.

Buzizi was exempted from the required preliminary tests and began his new career. After having worked as a schoolteacher briefly this hotel business presented him a challenge he would duly fulfil in the years ahead with flying colours.

After a two-year training period in Britain, sponsored by the Gulf Hotel, Buzizi returned home and found himself doing the basics in the hotel or as he likes to put it the 'general chores'. This included working in the kitchen, cleaning, making boss among others.

"I am proud to say that I did everything I was told to do. I was never ashamed to perform the most menial tasks assigned to me. I was sure that one day soon I would go on to bigger and better things," said Buzizi.

Sure enough, he was put in the sales team in the hotel and the subsequent years saw him rise to the top. Periods of training stints in sales followed and took him to some of the World's leading hotels including the Dorchester in London and the Shangri-La in Singapore. After successfully serving as the Sales Director of Gulf hotel, in 1984 he was promoted to his present position as the general manager.

Buzizi is adamant that the hotel industry can provide a rewarding career for his countrymen in the near future.

"I believe that there is a tremendous scope for Bahrainis to do well in this field. The country boasts of a hotel training centre with all the facilities. With the development of tourism in the country on a large scale there will be a large number of hotels coming up with many jobs. Sooner or later Bahrainis must and will occupy most of the positions in

this industry over the next few years. We are doing our best to help the government to achieve this goal.

However Buzizi, who is also the chairman of the general managers committee of deluxe hotels in Bahrain, cautions that young nationals must be prepared to work long hours and accept reasonable salary initially before progressing to the management level.

"Some youngsters have this illusion of becoming managers of hotel overnight. If they really expect to do well in this line they must be patient and work hard. Everybody must start from the bottom here. Work satisfaction and financial gain will come eventually with experience," said Buzizi.

According to Buzizi one of the most satisfactory aspects of working as a hotelier is the opportunity to travel to different countries and meet different people.

"I love travelling and I am glad that my work allows me this luxury. Everyday here is different. I enjoy my job as it is always interesting."

Like most hotel bosses he is always on the move and there is never a dull moment for him. Whether it is attending an international hotel conference abroad or welcoming one of his numerous guests, Buzizi sparkles just like his personality.

A man who fits his job like a glove, Buzizi with his brilliant eloquence, vibrant sense of humour and debonair charm enralls his guests at all times. A confirmed bachelor in his mid-forties 'married to the hotel', he epitomises the spirit of good fun and entertainment with a five-star touch.



The Beauty and Spirit of Japan

During Japan Week 1990, there will be a traditional programme presented by Japanese Folk Dance Ensemble. This will include:

Prologue: Festival Lion

As lions are regarded as the messengers of the gods, lion dances are often found in festivals in Japan.

Girls Dance

Passed down in a snowy northern city in Japan, this elegant dance is said to have been one of the original inspirations behind Kabuki dance. The graceful costumes and fans recall the painted screens of ancient Japan. This performance features a selection for three girls selling firewood and flowers.

Demon Sword Dance

Passed down in Northeastern Japan, this virile dance features demon masks and strong gestures. It is traditionally performed to console the spirits of the dead. There are many variations, with the three-dancer version performed today being the most colourful.

Spider Dance

This dance, preserved at Kyoto's Mibu Temple, is based on a well-known legend. 800 years ago, the ruler was suffering from a mysterious disease. At night a spider emanating a malicious power slipped into the palace. The dance depicts the struggle between the spider and the shogun's brave retainers. The highlight is the battle scene, when the spider

casts out numerous webs that create a unique atmosphere on the stage.

Songs and Dances of Tsugaru

This number features songs and dances from the very northern tip of the Japan's main island. There is music for a folk instrument noted for its rhythmic and vigorous performing style, as well as dancing to similar folk songs of the same region.

Drum of the War God

This dance depicts an episode from the medieval period of civil wars (15-16c). The general had sent his armies to invade the territories of the neighbouring general's clan. To warn his warriors and drive back the enemy, the god of war beats furiously on his great drum, displaying a variety of terrifying expressions.

Battle with the Great Serpent

This dance is based on a story from myth and is typical of one of the oldest strains in Japanese dance, and was performed as an offering to the gods. To pacify an evil serpent, an aged father and mother fear that they must sacrifice their beloved daughter. But the heroic god intervenes to defeat the serpent. First, he filled a huge tub with rice wine and set it out. When the serpent came to eat the young girl, it saw the wine, drank it, and became sleepy. After a ferocious battle, the hero defeated the serpent. In the tail of the dead serpent, he found a splendid sword, which has been transmitted as one of the Three Sacred Treasures of the Japanese Imperial House. Do not forget the special date: February 5, 1990. For tickets, reservation and information, contact the Embassy of Japan on 5312870.

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Batman
Salimiyah
Hall Booked
Al Hamra
Ninja Operation
Drive-In
Arab film
Al Firdous
Bandhan Anjasa
Fahad
Anjasa
Al Jaleel
Al Jaleel
Al Jaleel
Arab film
Salamiyah
The Boy Who Could Fly
Jaleel
Fahad
Al Andalus
Licence to Kill

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.15 am
Zohr 12.02 pm
Asr 3.57 pm
Maghrib 5.28 pm
Isha 6.47 pm

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING

9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al-Kher, news
9.50 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Ghoraba Fi Al Madeena: Arabic serial (part 7)
11.45 That's incredible: Foreign variety programme
12.25 News summary
12.30 Sabah Al Kher final
12.35 Holy Quran and closedown

EVENING

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via satellite (repetition)
4.45 Sabah Al Fadh: cartoon serial
5.15 Cartoons
5.45 Night chemists, air-lines and official advertisements
6.00 Al Fareso Al Aashq:

KTV 2

MORNING

7.00 Varieties
7.15 The Agricultural Magazine: local programme, prepared and presented by Yaqoob Al Youssifi
7.45 Deewaniyat Shuara Al Nabat: local programme
8.30 Good Evening and local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Al Laaboon Fi Al Nar: Arabic serial (part 12)
10.45 Al Ittezar: Arabic late night feature, starring Abbas Al Nouri Samiya Jazaeri, Ahmad Addas and Layla Jaber
12.00 News Summary
12.05 The World Today via Satellite
12.30 Holy Quran and closedown

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran

KTV 3

MORNING

6.10 The New Three Stooges. A cartoon series for children
6.30 The Beachcombers. "Over the Hill". Nick has an accident and shows all indications of suffering a heart attack. Home from the hospital, Nick returns to his normal activities only to find all his friends doing too much for him.

7.00 The Celts. "The Man with the Golden Shoe". A look at the Celtic tribes that lived in Europe before Christ. Their civilization, traditions and social behaviour...
8.00 News in English
8.30 Wildside. "Buffalo Who!". A terrorist claims that he is "Buffalo Bill" arrives to Wildside with his band for presenting certain shows.... But Brodie

KTV 4

MORNING

9.30 Coach. "I Am Sorry." Hyden realises that his friend's widow is against sport activities and plans to contribute a great part of his wealth to other societies.

10.00 Q.E.D. Putting You in the Picture. A look at modern cinema called "Emax" which gives the audience a special audio and video effect... An interview with two Canadian Engineers who developed this new type of film.

10.30 Bestseller. "Around the World in 80 Days." Fog and his companions arrive in San Francisco. The wife of the Indian Maharaja returns to India.
12.00 News in brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Seminar
THE seminar at the DAA on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the

Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

Stamp Show 1990
In commemoration of the 29th National Day, the Boushahri Gallery will be holding a stamp exhibition, Stamp Show 1990. The exhibition will open on Monday, February 5, 1990 at 6 pm and will be held until Feb 15. Opening hours (from second day on) are 9 am to 12 noon and 4 pm to 8.30 pm.

SOCIAL

Hobby centre
A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making - For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

Craft Centre
MOTHERS are your hands too full with your tots on weekends? Here's a chance for you to relax and introduce them to creative art. For details contact 5635740, between 9 - 12 noon.

...Like a Hurricane!
SEVENTH Sky's Rock Concert at Al Andalus Cinema on 15th & 16th Feb '90. Featuring Rock, Pop/Rock and Rock 'n' Roll from the 80's. For information and reservation call 5730265, 2543219.

Carnival Fiesta '90
YMCA/Incredible S.C. are proud to announce their Carnival Fiesta '90 at Messilah Beach Hotel (Habiba) on Feb 22, '90.

Non-stop dancing from 8.30 pm onwards to the beat of latest sensation "Hurricane Alley" and "Neighbour".
Highlights: Best Carnival couple (fancy) and many many surprises. For details contact the organisers on Tel. 2450279 (between 8 am to 1 pm) or Tel. 3921712.

Konkani drama
THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menno De Bandar's "Sousarant Astane Dhat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Finaitees) on 16th February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menno de Bandar. Tickets now available at Canary Video (Sharq) and Video Clock (near G.P.O.). Rush for tickets, one show only.

Ladies International League
YOU are invited to attend the next general meeting on Monday, February 5, Sheraton Ballroom A. Our programme will be presented by Claude Maxine. Everyone welcome! Doors open 6 pm, programme begins at 7 pm promptly! Door charge.

Kuwait Little Theatre
Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmadi, present the Kuwait Folk Group in concert on 14th and 15th February, at 8 pm both nights. Tickets, can be ordered by phoning 5919759.

Videos of the recent very successful pantomime Sinbad the Sailor, can be picked up from the theatre on Sunday 4th February from 7 pm to 9 pm.

II Annual one act Play Competition
INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Act Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Finaitees. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel. 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Daniella Fastelabn
Daniella celebrates "Fastelabn" for Dances at Gazelle Club on Friday, Feb 16, at 1 pm. For reservations please call Marianne - Tel: 3710215 ext 29 or Winnie - Tel: 5733382 before Feb 13.

Valentine's Party
VALENTINE'S Party: Come join the fun. Feb 15 dinner buffet-Top Ranks band, door prizes, Cupid's arrow waiting! For more information call Nina on 5339623 or Kathy on 2523992 (between 6 and 8 pm).

Daniella Coffee Morning
Next coffee morning for Dances will take place at the SAS hotel on Sunday February 4 at 9.00 am. For further information, if needed, please call Inge on 3727688 ext 207.

Kuwait Welsh Society
ST. DAVID'S Day buffet dance Thursday 1st March 1990. At Messilah Beach Hotel. For ticket reservations & more information ring 3713467, 3912384, 5625316.

Punjabi Cultural Society
PUNJABI Cultural Society in Kuwait is celebrating the 117th birth anniversary of great Punjabi Poet Padam Bhushan Bhai Vir Singh on Feb 9, 1990 at 6.30 pm; at the Indian Embassy Auditorium. The noted Punjabi writers, poets and singers will participate. Everybody is welcome.

ACT's production of Thornton Wilder's comedy "The Skin of Our Teeth" will be presented on February 27, 28 and March 1 at 8.00 pm at the Universal American School, Salwa. Tickets can be reserved by calling 5725071 or 5731782.

German-Speaking Cultural Association
THE next coffee morning for German-speaking ladies will be held on Sunday, Feb 4, 10 am, at Kuwait International Hotel, Old Failaka Room. Please make an effort to attend. Newcomers are particularly welcome.

SPORTS

Coaching classes
COACHING classes for new recruits, who desire to qualify as football referees, conducted by the Indian Football Referees' Association, Kuwait (IFRA), will commence from Friday, February 23, 1990. Interested candidates may con-

tact D'Souza, Tel: 2402631-2; or Anthony Fernandes, Tel: 2445729/2431674 or any members of the committee at the Sour Ground in person for any further information.

Qualified members of any Indian states' referees' associations and/or of Asian/European referees associations are welcome to join the association as members.

Tivim Centre
"TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers - 2441860 Casimiro."

HOTELS

Kuwait International Hotel
FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupressure, athletic and relaxation massage available everyday. Tennis clinics on-going for all levels of play including Junior, Ladies' and Adult sessions with Frank Novak - an experienced Canadian coach and tennis professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit Classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ladies' Sauna now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm. For details please call: 2530000/8050 (Recreation).



Customs authority, Rubaiya contract

A contract of copiers' delivery was signed by Abdul Latif Saleh Al Saad, representing the Customs Public Authority as their general manager & Youssef Al Wahdi representing Kuwait Rubaiya General Trading & Contracting Company, (Utah authorised dealer) as their Assistant G.M financial & administration affairs.

Also were present, Ameen Fadel Al Medress financial & technical manager, Anad Fahad Al Sahli assistant Financial & Technical Manager, and Jamal Fahm Sharawi Techniquip manager for Rubaiya

Whereby the contract makes Rubaiya supply the Custom Public Authority with 15 of Utaxs most advanced copiers.

مكتبة العربية

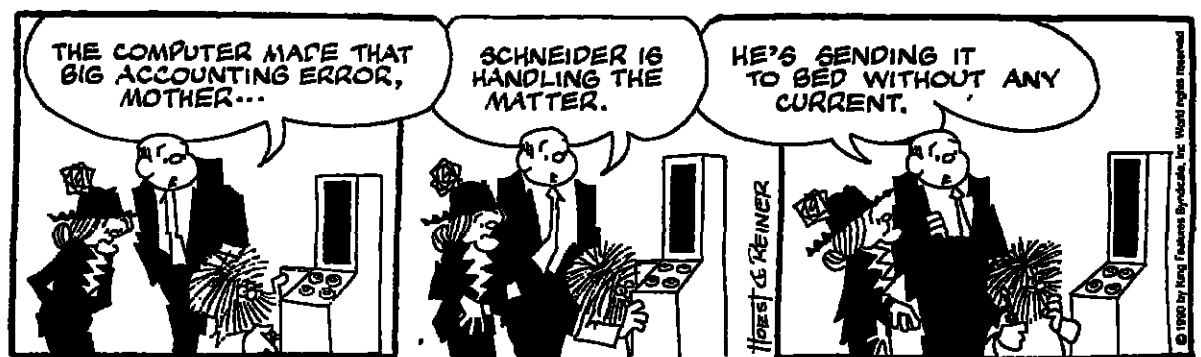
BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



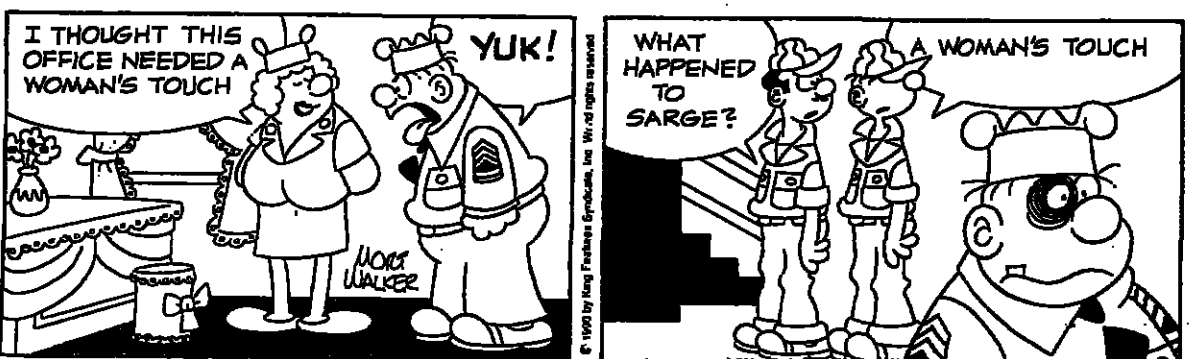
NAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dirk Browne



AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



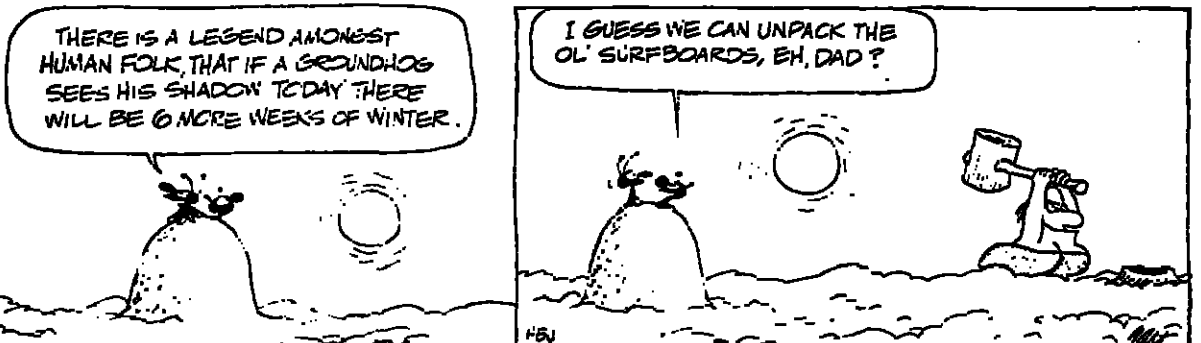
THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



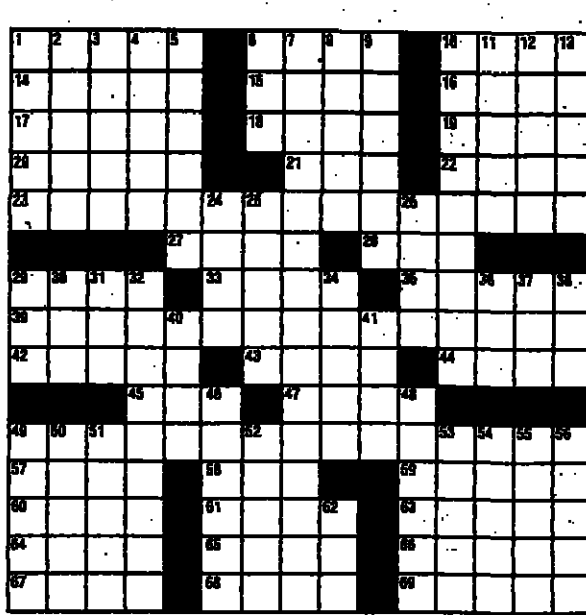
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Neon et al.
 - Woodwind
 - College cheers
 - Goddess of peace
 - Rue — Paix
 - Assam
 - Silkworm
 - Cousin of a heron
 - Yalies
 - Confined
 - Glider
 - Wall climber
 - Wavy, in heraldry
 - Abet
 - Ritzy
 - Disant: self-styled
 - Choir member
 - British bye-bye
 - Some is good
 - Beginning of a Cervantes observation
 - Thespian ruse
 - Son of Seth
 - Bronte's Jane
 - Govt. agcy.
 - Spokes
 - "Marry in haste, we may —"
 - Congress
 - Loki's realm
 - Exclamation of disgust
 - Go in
 - Sound from a steeple
 - Marvin and Majors
 - Spanish queen
 - Whether —
 - Regarding
 - Ignited again
 - Pack away
 - Wing: Comb. form
 - "There —"
 - atheists...
- DOWN**
- German psychologist Wilhelm: 1890-1935
 - Inert gas
 - Ice
 - January, in Juarez
 - Establishes
 - Keats' output
 - "Let... —"
 - Genesis
 - Popeye's pal
 - 9 — tie
 - Disown
 - Gladia's milieu
 - A language of N. India
 - Filled
 - Newspaper section
 - "Let us run into — harbor"
 - bene
 - Desert robe
 - Flour-de —
 - Before cycle
 - or angle
 - 32 Fraternal order member
 - 34 " — and his money..."
 - Retiring
 - Painter Gerard —
 - Borch
 - 38 Palindromic word
 - 40 Conner from Edinburgh —
 - 41 Italian noble family
 - 46 "I wore — and you..."
 - 48 Nevada or Leone
 - 49 Reclaims: Abbr.
 - 50 Chris of the courts
 - 51 Instrument for Watts
 - 52 Representative expression
 - 53 Scornful
 - 54 Useful
 - 55 Proteolytic enzyme
 - 56 Poetry muse
 - 62 Indian weight

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

EDGED SEW DEMIT
GROVE ABE ERODE
ROLIS GOLDMINER
END STANDEE EAR
TIEPEE SCANTLY
NEREID IRE
CARET MOOD EGOS
ODOR CARTE DONE
LEDA EMIT PILOT
GOD SOARED
LOBELIA MERCER
AVIL ENCAMPUS OSE
POT OF GOLD ELATE
ELEM ROI NOSED
LOREN NEV TOTES

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
SLIP ONE, KNIT TWO!

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 10 9 7 5
♥ J 10
♦ A 7 4 3
♣ Q

WEST
♠ J 8 6 4
♥ 5 3
♦ Q 10 9 6 5
♣ J 6

EAST
♠ 3 2
♥ K Q 9 8 2
♦ K J 8 2
♣ 10 5

SOUTH
♠ A
♥ A 7 6 4
♦ Void
♣ A K 9 8 7 4 3 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠

We are indebted to 5th Column, published by District 5 of the American Contract Bridge League, for today's hand. The bidding was not given, but it might have gone as shown.

Since a jump to three clubs would not be forcing, South creates a one-round force by rebidding at the two-level in a suit ranking higher than his original strain. North's four diamonds is a cue-bid implying

club tolerance, and six clubs nicely expresses the playing strength of South's hand.

Any plain-suit lead would have made declarer's life easy. South would win in hand, clear the ace of spades, enter dummy with the queen of trumps and take three heart discards on the ace of diamonds and king-queen of spades. That would guarantee the slam as long as clubs were no worse than 3-1 and spades 4-2, or if the hand with four trumps ruffed the third round of spades. And if spades broke 3-3, declarer would reel in an overtrick.

The trump lead, however, removed declarer's only entry to the table before it could serve a useful purpose, since the ace of spades blocked the run of that suit. To take a heart discard on the ace of diamonds would serve little purpose, since declarer would still be stranded with two losers in that suit.

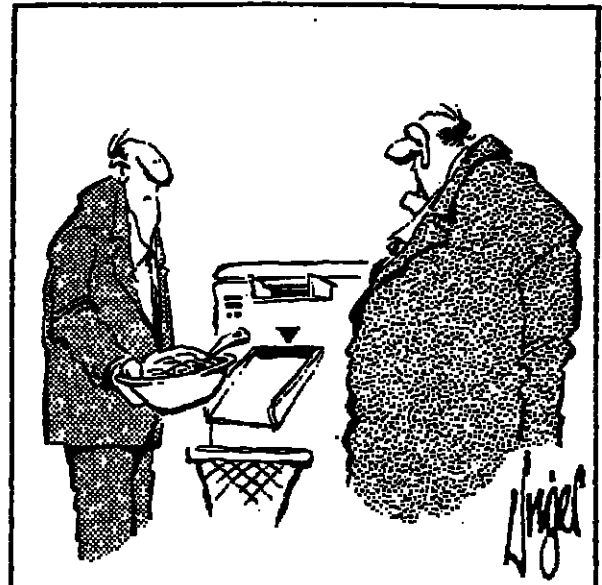
There was a very elegant counter available, and declarer found it. After winning the first trick in dummy, declarer cashed the ace of diamonds and discarded the ace of spades from hand! The king and queen of spades were then cashed for two heart pitches and, when both lived, declarer fulfilled his contract, losing only a heart trick.



"OK, a cheeseburger for you. What about the Statue of Liberty over here?"

YOUR STARS

<p>Aries March 21 - April 20</p> <p>You will be able to do something very much to your liking. Make sure your partner is taken into your confidence. Do not interfere in what does not concern you. Be tactful.</p>	<p>Cancer June 21 - July 20</p> <p>You should not try to do many things all at once. You will tend to be forgetful so do not spurn side de memoires. Something you have been trying to learn will now fall into place. Be tidy.</p>	<p>Libra Sept. 23 - Oct. 22</p> <p>You should not allow your eyes to be bigger than your financial capacity. And if you try to keep up with some well to do neighbours you could well come to grief. Show a little more concern for others. Be generous.</p>	<p>Capricorn Dec. 21 - Jan. 19</p> <p>You will not be in the best of moods so try to avoid controversial situations. And do your best not to get on anyone's nerves. You will be able to avoid making a bad mistake. Be truthful.</p>
<p>Taurus April 21 - May 20</p> <p>Avoid extravagance but do not be mean either. You will be able to make an important decision about a matter that has been troubling you. And once you have made it do not delay. Be reasonable.</p>	<p>Leo July 21 - Aug. 21</p> <p>You should not neglect your personal life and should take your mind off work for the day. An offer or proposal should be studied carefully before you accept it. Be less selfish.</p>	<p>Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21</p> <p>You will be able to solve a mystery, but you should avoid guesswork and jumping to conclusions. Make sure you do not eat too many sweets or starchy foods. Think once again before you make up your mind. Be amenable.</p>	<p>Aquarius Jan. 20 - Feb. 18</p> <p>Something you had feared might happen will not. If you ask for more than you deserve you will be disappointed. Your lucky numbers are 14 and 27. You should not dwell too much on the past; live more in the present. Be polite.</p>
<p>Gemini May 21 - June 20</p> <p>You should pay a little more attention to the state of your health. Do not spend money you have not got in the hope of a windfall. Do not try to run before you can walk. Be compassionate.</p>	<p>Virgo Aug. 23 - Sept. 22</p> <p>You will be able to do something you had long wanted to do but it will prove something of a disappointment. You should think a little more constructively. Take your mind off gloomy thoughts and look on the bright side. Be fair.</p>	<p>Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 20</p> <p>Something you are learning will take longer than you thought; but you should persevere. You are liable to be short-tempered and should do your best to restrain yourself. Listen to what others are saying. Be sincere.</p>	<p>Pisces Feb. 19 - March 20</p> <p>A few hours spent tidying up will save a lot of toil at a later date. Make sure you do not exceed any limits whether of speed or of safety or of propriety. Try to avoid heavy expenditures. Be frank.</p>



"Simpkins, how many times have I told you about using the office paper-shredder to make cole slaw?"



"He said he hates to be a bother, but could you please sharpen this up for tomorrow's battle."

New Zealand 459; India 97 for three

Hadlee one short of Test history

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Feb. 3. (Reuters): Richard Hadlee, an unexpected participant in this contest, today hoisted himself to within one wicket of becoming the first bowler to capture 400 in Test cricket.

Needing four wickets to reach this milestone at the start on the second day of the first Test between New Zealand and India at Lancaster Park, his home ground, Hadlee took two in his opening spell as India replied to towering New Zealand total of 459.

Hadlee ousted W.V. Raman and Sanjay Manjrekar in his first and fourth overs and when he returned for a second spell, four overs from the end of the day, he trapped Indian captain Mohammed Azharuddin with his second ball.

Two of Hadlee's victims were trapped leg before. Raman fell to a poor shot, played right across the line.

Azharuddin, who was in sparkling form and had scored 48 off only 44 balls, was undermined by a ball that cut back sharply.

Manjrekar was on the front foot when he was caught out off

pad by Jones off a Hadlee ball.

The rest of the bowling presented no problems to the Indians although Sidhu, who remained unbeaten with 27, could have been among the casualties had he not been dropped at second slip off Danny Morrison, Hadlee's new ball partner.

India, at the close, were 97 for three in reply to the New Zealand total of 459. They still needed 163 runs to avoid the follow on.

The main contributor to this massive score was New Zealand's left-handed captain, John Wright, who made his highest Test score of 185, having batted for 554 minutes and hit 23 fours. Wright and Mark Greatbatch, the only batsman out in the morning session, shared a 125-run stand, which established a new record for New Zealand's fourth wicket against India.

Ken Rutherford took a hand in assaulting a tired Indian attack towards the end of the innings and made 69. Joining him in the assault, Hadlee scored a quick 28.

Scoreboard

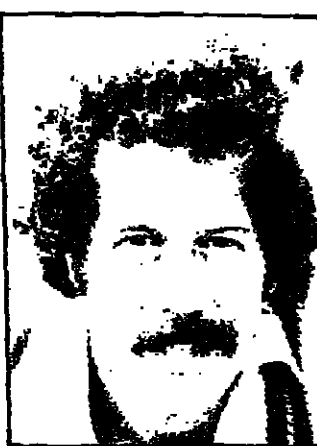
NEW ZEALAND first innings
M. Greatbatch b. Wasson... 46
M. Crowe lbw b. Venkatapathy...

Rau... 24
A. Jones c. Venkatapathy... 52
Rau b. Hirani... 20
T. Franklin c. Prabhakar b. Kapil Dev... 20
J. Wright b. Venkatapathy... 185
K. Rutherford b. Kapil Dev... 69
J. Gracewell b. Hirani... 0
I. Smith lbw b. Venkatapathy... 9
R. Hadlee c. Hirani b. Prabhakar... 28
M. Snedden lbw b. Kapil Dev... 3
D. Morrison not out... 1
Extras (b-3 lb-12 nb-7)... 22
Total... 459
Fall of wickets: 1-26 2-131 3-182 4-307 5-374 6-375 7-384 8-448 9-454

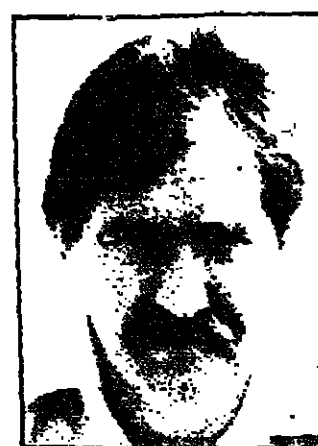
Bowling: Kapil Dev 28.3-4-89-3, Prabhakar 38.8-11-4-1, Wasson 25.3-5-1, Venkatapathy 35-12-95-3, Hirani 28-8-60-2.

INDIA first innings
W. Raman lbw b. Hadlee... 0
N. Sidhu not out... 27
S. Manjrekar c. Jones b. Hadlee... 5
M. Azharuddin lbw b. Hadlee... 48
S. Venkatapathy b. Hadlee not out... 7
Extras (b-4 lb-4 nb-2)... 10
Total (for three wickets)... 97
To bat: S. Tendulkar, M. Prabhakar, Kapil Dev, K. More, N. Hirani, A. Wasson.

Fall of wickets: 1-0 2-27 3-88
Bowling: Hadlee 8-1-19-3, Morrison 6-0-44, Gracewell 3-0-14-0, Snedden 5-1-12-0.



Wayne Larkins



Graham Gooch

Larkins hits century as England prosper

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts, Feb. 3. (Reuters): Wayne Larkins gave England's cricket tour of the Caribbean the best possible start with a superb 107 to help his side to 244 for two at the close of the first day of the four-day match against the Leeward Islands yesterday.

Larkins' century was the first first-class hundred by an England player in the Caribbean since David Gower's 154 not out in the Jamaica Test of the 1980-1 series.

Larkins was given excellent support by skipper Graham Gooch, who made 46 in a first-wicket stand of 96, and Alec Stewart, with whom he shared a second-wicket partnership of 124.

Larkins took 33 minutes to get off the mark and did not hit the first of his 12 boundaries until the 15th over when he struck Hamish Anthony for three runs in four balls.

After reaching his 50 in the 46th over, Larkins was fortunate to survive when Eldine Baptiste got his right hand to a return catch but could not hold on.

That was the only chance Larkins gave in a dominant display on a perfect batting wicket.

He reached his century from 220 balls but after 320 minutes at the wicket he played a rather tired-looking drive and gave Keith Arthurton a simple caught

and bowled. Gooch, happy to have first use of an easy-paced wicket that blunted the Leewards' pace attack, batted for 40 overs before he edged an outswinger from Winston Benjamin to wicket-keeper Livingstone Harris.

Benjamin, struck for four fours by Gooch in his seven-over opening spell, had a sore right knee and was some way below his quickest.

Stewart, dropped when he had made 23, made the most of his good fortune to reach 65 not out off 188 balls.

England team manager Micky Stewart said: "The pitch was slow but it was gratifying that three of our batsmen got runs so early in the tour."

Scoreboard

ENGLAND first innings
G. Gooch c. Harris b. W. Benjamin 46
W. Larkins c. b. Arthurton 107
A. Stewart not out 65
R. Smith not out 13
Extras (b-1 lb-4 w-4 nb-4) 13
Total (for two wickets) 244
Fall of wickets: 1-96 2-220
To bat: R. Bailey, N. Hussain, J. Russell, P. DeFreitas, K. Medley, G. Smith, D. Malcom.

Bowling to date: W. Benjamin 21-3-62-1, K. Benjamin 6-4-4-0, Anthony 15-4-50-0, Baptiste 22-6-51-0, Gushard 28-7-58-0, Arthurton 7-3-14-1.

LEEWARDS ISLANDS—S. Williams, R. Bassey, R. Richardson (captain), K. Arthurton, R. Otto, H. Anthony, E. Baptiste, L. Harris, N. Gushard, W. Benjamin, K. Benjamin.

Uruguay, Costa Rica triumph

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 3. (Reuters): William Castro passed for one goal and scored another in the last 10 minutes as Uruguay's national soccer team won down Colombia 2-0 in a 2-0 victory in the World Cup.

Colombia opened strong and twice Uruguay's goalkeeper Fernando Alvarez was called on to make saves in the match between two countries which will play in the World Cup finals in Italy.

Colombia's chances evaporated, however, when defender Ricardo Perez was ejected in the 31st minute after receiving his second yellow card within two minutes for dangerous tackles.

Colombia kept Uruguay at bay until the 77th minute, helped by poor finishing by their South American rivals who have won the World Cup twice.

Castro ended Colombia's hopes of holding out for a penalty shootout when he crossed to substitute Pedro Pedrucci who nodded the ball into the net after it was fumbled by flamboyant goalkeeper Rene Higuita.

Five minutes later Castro controlled an awkwardly bouncing pass from Johnny Miquero and smacked the ball inside the right-hand post.

Higuita entertained the enthusiastic crowd of 25,392 in the Orange Bowl, many of them waving gigantic Colombian and Uruguayan flags, by advancing far out of his penalty area and twice dribbling past opponents.

Once he almost paid the price when he lost control to a Uruguayan, but was relieved to see the shot go wide of the empty net.

Uruguay will play Costa Rica in the second game of the four-nation tournament tomorrow with Colombia facing the United States. Costa Rica beat the United States 2-0 in the opening game involving the four World Cup countries.

Juan Cayasso scored with a bullet header after just eight minutes to lead Costa Rica to a win against a lethargic US team.

The Costa Rican side, sharper and quicker throughout, added a second goal after 61 minutes when Enrique Diaz ran through on the left and netted a free kick by Carlos Garro that floated over US defenders.

The Central Americans, who won the Concacaf qualifying group from the United States by a point, consistently beat the bigger Americans in air from corners.

Piontek aims to quit as coach

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 3. (Reuters): Denmark's national soccer coach Sepp Piontek, embittered by unfavourable Danish media reports, said yesterday he would resign when his contract expired in mid-June.

Piontek, in Stockholm for the qualifying draw for the 1992 European Soccer Championship, told reporters: "I resign. I am being portrayed as a crook. Enough is enough."

Piontek, who had been negotiating a new four-year contract with the Danish Football Association, denied press suggestions of tax evasion and reports of unreasonable salary demands.

He said I received a call at midnight from a newspaper which wanted to know if I was hiding away money abroad. That was the final straw. I have always paid my tax in Denmark."

Foster wins star-studded 55m hurdles

Coghlan fifth in Wanamaker Mile

NEW YORK, Feb. 3. (Reuters): Greg Foster surged to victory in a star-studded 55-metre hurdles race, while double Olympic champion Jackie Joyner-Kersey settled for second in the women's hurdles at the Millrose Games indoor athletics meeting yesterday.

Foster, who barely qualified for one of the six lanes in the final, picked up speed from the third hurdle and won going away in 7.01 seconds ahead of fellow Americans Jack Pierce and Tonie Campbell, who clocked 7.13 and 7.16, respectively.

Joyner-Kersey, the Olympic and world champion in the long jump and heptathlon, clocked 7.47 seconds in the women's 55-metre hurdles to finish behind fellow American Lavonna Martin, who won in 7.41.

Foster, who holds the world indoor best over 60 metres, squeezed into the final by beating countryman Arthur Blake into third place in his heat by one-hundredth with a time of 6.98.

The 18-man field for the race featured seven of the world's top-10 in the event, including Roger Kingdom and Renato Nohemiah.

Kingdom, the two-time Olympic champion and outdoor world record holder, showed the effects of a bout with the flu. He failed to reach the final after clocking 7.23 in his heat.

Nohemiah, the former world record holder, tripped over the first hurdle in the final and went sprawling.

"I'm stronger than ever, without a doubt," said Foster, who has battled back to form after twice breaking a bone in his left forearm. "I'm in the weight room every day and I think it's helping me."

The powerful hurdler said he was "very, very pleased with what my doctors have done," and made his aims clear.



Foster wants to be No 1

"My goal is to be ranked number one in the world," said the sixth-ranked Foster. Joyner-Kersey, not bothered by her result, said she was pacing herself to peak for the outdoor season.

"I'm not disappointed, it's long season," said Joyner-Kersey, who was outkicked at the end. "Last year I ran fast early I want to be

ready for June and July." She said she had been concentrating more this year on the heptathlon but predicted faster times in the hurdles.

"I feel I'm much faster than what I ran tonight. I think I can run 7:35 or better," she said with an eye toward improving her world best of 7:37.

In another women's upset, American Joetta Clark won the 800 metres over East Germans Christine Wachtel and Sigurn Wodars. Clark was timed in 2:02.16, with Olympic silver medalist Wachtel second in 2:02.79 and Olympic champion Wodars third in 2:03.37.

Marcus O'Sullivan ruined the surprise return of fellow-Irishman Eamonn Coghlan to the featured Wanamaker Mile race by taking charge over the last half to win in 3:59.35.

Olympic 1,500-metre bronze medalist Jen-Peter Herold of East Germany was second in 3:59.59.

Coghlan, 37, whose seven victories in this race helped earn him the nickname of "Chairman of the boards," was in the hunt until the last lap when he fell back to finish fifth in 4:01.83.

"I just didn't have the zip I used to have in my legs that last lap," said Coghlan, who is making a comeback after a two-year lay off. The women's mile proved to be a Romanian romp as Doina Melinte, Victoria Chican and Margareta Keszegi finished one-two-three with indoor record holder Melinte winning in a sluggish 4:31.40.

The most exciting finish of the 83rd annual games at Madison Square Garden came in the 600 yards when Butch Reynolds, the 400 metres world record holder, leaped past fellow-American Danny Harris at the tape to win in 1:09.22.

Dress rehearsals

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 3. (Reuters): European champions the Netherlands have agreed to join Italy, Denmark and Sweden in a friendly tournament next year which will serve as a dress rehearsal for the 1992 European championship, a Swedish official said yesterday.

Swedish soccer federation chairman Lennart Johansson said the Dutch had given a verbal promise to replace West Germany in the tournament to be played between June 13 and 16 1991.

Vicini curses his luck after draw

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 3. (Reuters): Italian national soccer coach Azzelio Vicini was yesterday left cursing his luck but hoping for revenge after the World Cup hosts were given the toughest of all seven groups in the qualifying draw for the 1992 European Championship.

Vicini, whose promising young side were beaten 2-0 by the Soviet Union in the semifinals of the 1988 tournament in West Germany, was faced again with the prospect of two tough meetings with them, Hungary, Norway and Cyprus in Group Three.

Defending champions the Netherlands, who beat the Soviet Union 2-0 in the final, were handed an easy-looking passage to the finals. They will meet Portugal, Greece, Finland and Malta—none of which have qualified for this year's World Cup finals—in Group six.

Vicini said: "It's a very difficult group. It is no secret that the Soviet Union were the team to avoid in this draw—but it does give us a chance to avenge Stuttgart."

Former Dutch coach Rinus Michels, who guided them to their 1988 triumph in Munich where they beat the Soviet Union to claim their first international trophy, said: "We are satisfied with the opponents in our group and hope they are satisfied with us."

Dutch coach Thijs Libregts, speaking from a Rotterdam hospital where he was just had a hernia operation, said: "When I look at group Five, which includes both Germany and Belgium, I see I've nothing to complain about."

"It looks like Portugal will be our biggest rival while Greece and Finland are teams, who can pinch points from the teams regarded as the strongest."

The Soviet Union, unseeded for the draw in Stockholm's city hall, were less pleased with the draw.

Bianchav Koloskov, president of the Soviet Soccer Federation, said: "Of course we are worried, but it is highly motivating for us to play in a group with two very good teams."

Walker's medal hopes end in fall

Elliott wins first major championship

AUCKLAND, Feb. 3. (Reuters): Peter Elliott won his first major race today when he ran away with the Commonwealth Games 1,500 metres title.

The 1988 Olympic silver medalist has run in the shadow of his great contemporaries Seb Coe and Steve Cram since finishing fourth in the 1983 World Championship 800 metres.

This time, with both Cram and Coe absent, Elliott took on the Kenyans and won resoundingly in three minutes 33.39 seconds.

The race was unhappy marred by a fall on the second lap involving veteran New Zealand John Walker.

The former Olympic champion, now 38, clashed with Australian Pat Scammell and both men tumbled to the track, ending any medal chance they had.

Soon after crossing the line, Elliott asked Walker to join him on a victory lap. The pair jogged around the track to appreciative applause from the capacity 35,000 crowd.

"I heard yesterday that Scammell was notorious for bringing people down," Elliott said. "Then I looked around and Walker was down."

Walker, running in his last



England's 4 x 100 relay team bow to Britain's Queen Elizabeth during their victory lap after winning the Games gold. (Reuters wirephoto)

major competition said: "He just stopped. Scammell decks people regularly."

Scammell, who had a spine mark on his left shin said he did not know what had happened.

Kenya's William Tanui made the early pace, with Elliott always near the front of the 12-strong field.

Elliott took the field through

the bell and started to push the pace with 300 metres to run.

In the back straight Wilfred Kirochi took over from his teammate Tanui but he could make no impression on the aggressive Elliott who won by 10 metres.

Kirochi clocked 3:34.41 for second place and New Zealand's Peter O'Donoghue finished strongly in third place with

3:35.14. Steve Backley, world number one last year, reserved his best for last to win the men's javelin with a Commonwealth record 86.02 metres.

The Englishman, who won the Grand Prix and World Cup titles during a magnificent 1989 season, sent the javelin soaring 84.90 metres with his first throw.

He fouled once but each of his five valid throws were in excess of 80 metres.

Compatriot Michael Hill was second with 83.32 and New Zealand's Gavin Lovegrove third on 81.66.

"It was just about my best series ever," Backley said.

"My best throws were in the first and last rounds again. I came here to get the gold medal and it was great doing it."

"It's a long way from home but it feels like England."

Marios Hadjiandreou became the first Cypriot to win a Commonwealth athletics gold when he upset English favourite Jonathan Edwards in the triple jump.

Hadjiandreou cleared 16.95 while Edwards, who had three no-jumps, finished second with

16.93. Sally Gunnell, the 400 metres hurdles gold medalist, ran a splendid third leg to set England up for the women's 4 x 400 metres relay gold.

Kenya made no contest of the men's 4 x 400, winning by more than two seconds from Scotland.

Standings

Final Commonwealth Games medals table after today's 10th day of competition (tabularize under gold, silver, bronze):			
Australia	52	54	56
England	47	40	42
Canada	35	41	36
New Zealand	17	14	27
India	13	8	11
Wales	10	3	12
Kenya	6	9	3
Nigeria	5	12	7
Scotland	5	7	10
Malaysia	2	2	2
Jamaica	2	2	2
Uganda	2	2	2
N. Ireland	1	1	3
Nauru	1	1	1
Hong Kong	1	1	1
Cyprus	1	1	1
Bangladesh	1	1	1
Jersey	1	1	1
Bermuda	1	1	1
Gutteney	1	1	1
Papua NG	1	1	1
Zambia	1	1	1
Zimbabwe	1	1	1
Ghana	1	1	1
Tanzania	1	1	1
Zambia	1	1	1
Bahamas	1	1	1
Western Samoa	1	1	1
Guyana	1	1	1
Malta	1	1	1



Title fight

WBA middleweight champion Mike McCallum (left) who weighed in at 159 lbs, applauds his opponent, Irishman Steve Collins as he weighed in at 160 lbs on Saturday evening. Both were to fight for the world title early this morning at Hynes Convention Centre. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bradley takes 7-shot lead

LAKE WORTH, Fla., Feb. 3. (Reuters): Pat Bradley made a strong bid to win her 24th career LPGA tournament by jumping to a seven-stroke lead over Kim Bauer after two rounds of the \$300,000 Lake Worth Classic golf tournament yesterday.

Bradley, who has 23 LPGA victories, carded a seven-under-par 65 on the 6,215-yard Wycliffe Golf and Country Club. She scored her consecutive bogeyless round and had seven birdies.

"Again, I think the key was that I had no bogeys in my round," Bradley said. "I hit all of the greens and made a lot of good putts."

Bauer, whose career-best finish is a tie for 13th, tied her career-low round of 68 and has positioned herself in solo second place behind Bradley.

City hold United to 1-1 draw

Liverpool move clear

LONDON, Feb 3. (Reuters): Liverpool beat city rivals Everton 2-1 to go three points clear at the top of the English First Division today as heavy rain in southern England washed out many of the League's top soccer fixtures.

In the day's other major derby — the 100th between the two teams in their First Division history — Manchester United stretched their depressing League run to 11 games without a win, struggling to a 1-1 draw at home to Manchester City.

Aston Villa, behind Liverpool on goal difference with 46 points before today, had their match at Queen's Park Rangers rained off but stayed second with two games in hand.

Champions Arsenal had their match at bottom-placed Charlton called off but kept their third place with 42 points. The two other First Division casualties were fifth-placed Southampton against Derby and Wimbledon against Luton.

Nottingham Forest strengthened their hold on fourth place by beating Crystal Palace 3-1 but Chelsea were dealt a body-blow at Coventry, losing 3-2 though they remained sixth in the table. Tottenham play eighth-placed Norwich at home tomorrow.

While the downpour in the south dampened Villa's hopes, the sun in the north helped Liverpool to their 14th consecutive game without defeat and a derby double over their neighbours.

Everton goalkeeper Neville Southall was dazzled by the light and was unable to get to a ball loosed in from the right by Barry Venison, allowing England striker John Barnes to hit Liverpool's first goal in the 10th minute.

Everton, with five midfielders and four defenders, found they could do little to keep out a deter-



Peter Beardsley

mined Liverpool and went 2-0 down in the 30th minute when centre half Dave Watson handed a cross from England striker Peter Beardsley in the area.

Beardsley calmly beat South-

all with the low-hit penalty.

A headed goal by Scottish international striker Graeme Sharp in the 44th minute renewed Everton's hopes of avenging their 3-1 defeat at Goodison Park last year but it was not to be.

Manchester United, thrashed 5-1 by City last September, had a chance of revenge — and to relieve the pressure on beleaguered manager Alex Ferguson — when Clayton Blackmore put them ahead in the 70th minute. But their joy was short lived.

Ian Brightwell equalised for City three minutes later to revive the visitors' hopes of their first derby double win in 20 seasons and their first away win in the First Division since 1986.

City had come under intense early pressure and United were unlucky to go ahead after 25 seconds when Welsh striker Mark Hughes went clear in the box but screwed his shot wide.

The draw spared Ferguson the embarrassment of watching his team slide into the relegation zone for the first time since he took over at the club three years ago.

Coventry made few mistakes against Chelsea, going one ahead after 27 seconds and two up within three minutes.

Goalkeeper Steve Orizovic belted the ball up the pitch and forward Steve Livingston sped in for the first. The second was an own goal off defender Kevin McAllister.

Chelsea scored through England full-back Tony Doris in the 37th minute but two minutes later lost midfielder Alan Dickens who had to be carried off with a knee injury.

Striker Kerry Dixon equalised in the 48th minute but veteran Coventry player Cyrille Regis made it 3-2 in the 70th.

Results

English Division One		
Liverpool	2	Everton
Manchester U	1	Manchester C
Nottingham F	3	Crystal P
Sheff Wed	1	Milwall
Postponed: Charlton v Arsenal, Queens Park Rangers v Aston Villa, Southampton v Derby, Wimbledon v Luton.		
Playing Sunday: Tottenham v Norwich.		

English Division Two		
Blackburn	1	Bournemouth
Bradford	0	Barnsley
Hull	0	Sheff U
Middlesbrough	2	Portsmouth
Plymouth	0	Wolves
Port Vale	0	Stoke
West Brom	2	Oldham
Postponed: Brighton v Leicester, Ipswich v Oxford, Watford v West Ham.		
Playing Sunday: Newcastle v Sunderland, Swindon v Leeds.		

English Division Three		
Blackpool	3	Shrewsbury
Bury	0	Wigan
Cardiff	1	Preston
Chesham	1	Tranmere
Huddersfield	1	Tranmere
Rotherham	1	Nottingham
Postponed: Exeter v Southampton, Gillingham v Carlisle, Hereford v Burnley, Peterborough v Hartlepool.		
Played Friday:		
Halifax	2	Cambridge
Southend	2	Doncaster

Scottish Premier Division		
Aberdeen	2	Hearts
Dundee	0	St Mirren
Dunduff	1	Motherwell
Hibernian	1	Motherwell
Rangers	3	Dundee U

Scottish Division One		
Aberdeen	2	Partick
Ayr	2	Airdrie
Clyde	0	Airdrie
Forfar	2	Raith
Hamilton	1	Clydebank
Morton	2	Alloa
St Johnstone	1	Meadowbank

Scottish Division Two		
Berwick	3	Arbroath
Cowden	2	Stirling
Montrose	2	East Fife
Queen of S	1	Stenhousemuir
Stirling	1	Queen's Park
Straighter	2	Brechin



Four-team tournament

Uruguay's Hugo de Leon (right) has his soccer ball stolen from him by Columbia's Luis Fernando Herrera during a four-team soccer tournament match at the Orange Bowl, Miami, on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto) See Page 23

Badar helps Evergreen blast CCK

SPLendid batting by Badar and a five-pronged spin attack helped Evergreen Cricketers, led by Asad Baig, register an easy 101-run victory over Cricket Club of Kuwait (CCK) in an 'A' Division League match at EPI Ground on Friday morning.

After winning toss and opting to bat, Evergreen opened the innings through in-form Badar Munir and Waqar Zaidi. The latter was bowled by a ball which drastically kept low with the total just 18.

Bearded Qayyum Majeed joined Badar, who was simply unstoppable, and both kept the score moving well over seven runs per over. CCK's captain Rifat tried nine bowlers to break the partnership but the pair continued their onslaught till the penultimate over when Siraj held Badar at mid-wicket boundary off Rifat.

Badar's marvellous innings of 130 contained four towering sixes and 12 excellently executed boundaries. It is worth mentioning that it was second century for him at EPI. In the 26th and last over Qayyum who played second fiddle to his partner completed his well-deserved half century and took Evergreen past the 200 mark. His 53 came with the help of four hits to the fence. For CCK, Faisal and Rifat took a wicket each as Evergreen reached 201 for just two wickets.

Needing 7.77 per over, CCK were bunted out for only 100 runs in the 21st over. Faisal (24), Ali Rizvi Abu Bhai (18) and Rifat (17) were the main contributors.

For Evergreen, five-spinners shared nine wickets among them. Mansoor Zaher returned the best figures of three for 24 while Riz Chaudhry and Asad Baig took two wickets each after giving away 15 and 11 runs respectively. Arshed Pindival, Shehzad and Qayyum Majeed picked a wicket each.

England, Scotland outplay opponents

PARIS, Feb 3. (Reuters): England handed France their heaviest ever defeat at the Parc des Princes as they humiliated the home side 26-7 in their Five Nations Rugby Union Championship match today.

Tries from wing Rory Underwood and centres Jeremy Guscott and Will Carling along with some solid kicking from full-back Simon Hodgkinson, who slotted over four penalties and one conversions, kept England on course for the title.

England head the Five Nations table with four points after beating Ireland 23-0 at Twickenham two weeks ago.

Champions France, who failed to score against England in an 11-0 defeat at Twickenham last season, came out of the first half without a point as well, trailing 13-0 at the interval.

But fleet-footed wing Patrice Lagisquet saved them from total embarrassment with a try 13 minutes from time after Denis Charvet had opened their account with a penalty.

It was a thoroughly miserable afternoon for the French, who fared far worse with gusting winds and heavy drizzle than the English, the last visiting team to win in Paris in the championship

back in 1982.

From the kick-off the French must have felt something like the advertising hoardings on the touchlines, which one by one collapsed after an unequal struggle with the swirling wind.

The contest on the pitch itself was almost as one-sided with France never approaching their imperial best and totally devoid of their normal air of invincibility at the Parc.

Scotland beat Ireland 13-10 (half-time 0-7) in a Five Nations Rugby Union championship match at Lansdowne Road today.

Scorers: Ireland — try: John Fitzgerald. Penalties: Michael Kiernan 2.

Scotland — tries: Derek White 2. Conversion: Craig Chalmers. Penalties: Chalmers.

Standings (tabulate under — played, won, drawn, lost, points for, against, total points)

England	2	2	0	49	7
Scotland	1	1	0	13	10
France	2	1	0	1	36
Wales	1	0	1	19	29
Ireland	2	0	2	10	36

Next matches: Feb 17 — England v Wales, Scotland v France.

SPORTS BRIEFS

E. German sports

EAST BERLIN, Feb 3. (Reuters): East Germany's sports community, worried that political change could reduce its athletic prowess to mediocrity, staged rallies today to protest against severe cutbacks in its budget.

NBA games

NEW YORK, Feb 3. (Reuters): Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played yesterday:

San Antonio	118	Charlotte	107
Seattle	87	Indiana	86
Miami	126	L.A. Clippers	91
Philadelphia	119	Milwaukee	109
Minnesota	116	Boston	105
Washington	108	Sacramento	99
Utah	105	Dallas	92
Golden State	128	New Jersey	109
L.A. Lakers	112	Atlanta	106

PSV crushed

THE HAGUE, Feb 3. (Reuters): Defending champions PSV, Eindhoven, dogged by behind-the-scenes squabbles in recent weeks, suffered a crushing 3-1 at rivals Roda JC yesterday.

Gullit doubtful

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands, Feb 3. (AP): Ruud Gullit, the top Dutch soccer player who led his nation to triumph in 1988's European Soccer Championships, reportedly said it is "doubtful" that he will take part in the 1990 World Cup tournament.

Filipino darts

ALL Filipino darts enthusiasts are invited for a meeting on Thursday, February 8, 1990, at 6:00 pm at the Mabuhay Restaurant. Agenda: Darts tournament sponsored by Mabuhay Restaurant. For particular contact Ms Florence de los Santos, Tel. No. 2436121 or 2439451 or Rey Valino, Tel. No. 4382269.

Three-way tie

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif., Feb 3. (Reuters): Payne Stewart birdied his final hole allowing him to hold onto share with Bob Gilder and Rocco Mediate of the lead after two rounds of the million-dollar Pebble Beach National pro-am golf tournament yesterday.

N/S

1. Sherin & Izzeldin
2. Latala & Reddy
3. Shanti & Melham

E/W

1. Simon & Jaggi
2. Drexler & Carsten
3. Mrs Pereira & D'Souza
Results of marathon bridge game held on Friday:
1. Drexler & Carsten
2. Ravi & Dr Reddy
3. Mrs Bianca & Dr Tawil

Match abandoned

SYDNEY, Feb 3. (Reuters): The first day of play in the third and final cricket Test between Australia and Pakistan has been officially abandoned by the match umpires due to heavy rain today. Australia lead the series 1-0.

Graf outlasts Maleeva

Sanchez tames Akiko

TOKYO, Feb 3. (UPI): World No. 1 ranked Steffi Graf and fifth-ranked Arantxa Sanchez will meet tomorrow in the finals of the \$350,000 Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament.

It will be the second meeting between the two since the 18-year-old Spaniard Sanchez stunned the 20-year-old West German in the finals of the 1989 French Open 7-6 (8-6), 3-6, 7-5.

Top-seeded Graf held off a determined No. 3 seed Manuela Maleeva 6-4, 6-4 in the semifinals today and No. 2 Sanchez topped hometown favourite Akiko Kijima 6-4, 6-2 on the indoor artificial surface at Yoyogi gymnasium.

Maleeva, who is Bulgarian born but recently became a citizen of Switzerland, pressured Graf at every opportunity. However, she failed to return Graf's rocket serve when it counted most.

"The only thing I didn't do well was return her serve," said Maleeva, who is ranked eighth in the world. "I was misjudging her serve or returning it into the net. I had many break points but I never managed to break her."

With Maleeva holding a 3-2 lead and Graf serving, Maleeva went ahead double break point, but

failed to capitalise on the lead.

Graf nailed a pair of service winners to send the game to deuce and eventually won.

Later, with Graf leading 5-4 and serving for the first set, Maleeva again went up double-break point, but could not finish off the West German.

Graf said her own poor forehand service return helped her opponent. "I wasn't returning her second serve very well," said Graf, who is now 11-0 against Maleeva. "I can usually return it for some winners, but I was missing quite a few."

Graf said after her quarterfinal match that she expected a tough match from Maleeva and she wasn't disappointed.

Maleeva, who has only recently been attacking the net and playing less defensively, ran down almost everything and came up with some big shots when she needed them.

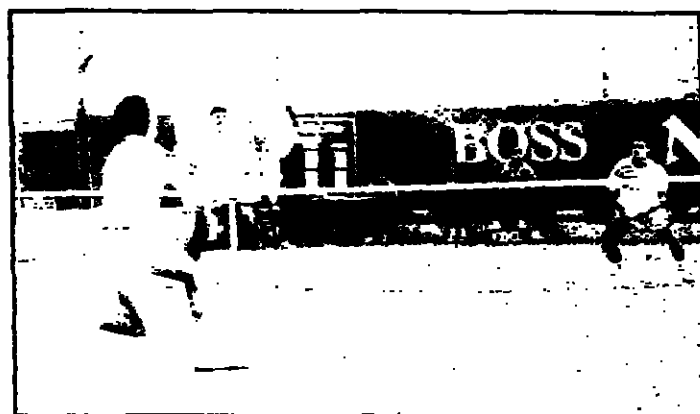
But when Graf fell behind, she turned to her powerful and consistent first serve to keep her in the match.

"Sometimes I was just trying to do too much," Graf said. "She likes to play somebody who plays fast and this surface suits her as well as me."



Sanchez kicks the ball during her match with Akiko. (Reuters wire-photo)

Kuwait beat Syria in Davis Cup tie



An action shot of the match



Ashwak (extreme right) and Ashkanani (2nd right) with the Syrian team. (Photos by Munzur Huna)

KUWAIT took an unbeatable 3-0 lead in their Asia/Oceania Zone, Group Two, first round Davis Cup tennis tie with a doubles victory over the visiting Syrians at the Kuwait Tennis Federation courts, Yarmouk Club, yesterday.

Kuwait's Khaled Ashkanani and Aiman Ashwak beat Dawood Dudian and Aneez Hafiz 6-4 6-4 6-1 to make this afternoon's reverse singles into only symbolic matches, having no outcome now on the overall result of the tie.

The Kuwaitis had been given a great start on Friday by Khalid Ashkanani and Khalid Hassan Rashid, who won the first two singles matches.

Yesterday, the doubles match started with the Syrians determined to put up a fight and get back into the tie. For the first two sets, Ashkanani and Ashwak were stretched to the maximum but they held on to win both.

In the third set, the Syrians lost all heart and they were swept aside by the Kuwaitis, who conceded only one game to win the match.

This afternoon, Aiman Ashwak will be in action again as he takes on Dudian in the reverse singles while Tariq Hadeed faces Samir Murad.

In Christchurch, New Zealand, Kelly Evernden rallied from one set down in the first reverse singles to seal the Davis Cup World Group first round tennis tie for New Zealand

against Yugoslavia today.

The New Zealand number one, trailing two sets to one, rejuvenated after play sparkling between sets to beat a spirited Goran Prpic 6-2 6-6 7 (1-7) 6-3 6-2 for an unbeatable 3-1 lead.

New Zealand held a 2-1 advantage going into today's play and Evernden was quick to put the pressure on a tentative Prpic to win the first set 6-0 in 23 minutes.

The quickly improving Prpic shattered Evernden's confidence to win the second set 6-2 with faultless returns of service and clever all-round court play.

The third set was decided by a tiebreak, with Evernden never in contention going down 7-1.

Urging on by a near capacity crowd, Evernden produced his brilliant best in the final two sets. Covering the court with amazing speed in 35 degrees Celsius (95 Fahrenheit) beat, Evernden pressured Prpic whenever possible from the net to gain the initiative to close out the final two sets 6-3 6-2 in the three hour 23 minute rubber.

"It's my most satisfying Davis Cup week," an ecstatic Evernden said afterwards.

"It's the first time as a team we've advanced into the second round of the World Group since I've been playing."

Generous in defeat, Prpic said Evernden was just too good.

"He came back unbelievably," Prpic said.

Brett Steven lost the fifth sin-

gles rubber to Slobodan Zivojinovic 5-7 7-6 (9-7) 5-7.

In Perth, Australia's decision to gamble on Pat Cash's fitness for their Davis Cup world group first round tennis clash with France paid off when he helped the home side to a vital 2-1 lead in the tie today.

Former Wimbledon champion Cash, still in the early stages of his comeback after rupturing an achilles tendon in Japan last April, teamed up with John Fitzgerald to beat France's Yannick Noah and Guy Forget 7-6 (8-6) 6-4 6-4 in the doubles.

Cash looked sharp and motivated as he and Fitzgerald took advantage of a sluggish Noah to take a stranglehold on a match played in temperatures of 34 degrees Celsius (93.2 Fahrenheit).

Noah, who denied afterwards that he was tired despite his five set match against Wally Masur the previous day, had his service broken in the first set tie-break and was promptly broken again in the opening game of the second set.

The Australian pair, with Fitzgerald dominating the net, served out the remainder of the set and the pattern repeated in the third set when Noah was broken again to give the home side a 2-1 lead.

Noah and Forget were again unable to claw their way back and Cash and Fitzgerald claimed victory in two hours and ten minutes.

Narendra wins Dunhill tourney

The 17-week annual Dunhill Bridge Tournament for the 1989/90 season held at Kuwait's Messilah Beach Hotel ended on Monday, January 27.

Results of the bridge game were as follows: N/S: First: Sabri & Dr Saad; Second: Sapre & Chandrasekar; Third: Karan & Drexler; E/W: First: Dr Adel & Sherin; Second: Ikramulhaque & Nissar; Third: Baz & Ezzeldin.

Narendra Shah won the prestigious Dunhill Trophy with a minimum score of 142 points, Dr Adel Bayoumi & Sherin Bayoumi shared the second prize with a score of 138 points each. Mrs Jaya Sapre stood third with a score of 128

points and D. Mukherjee finished fourth with 125 points. All the winners were presented with prizes from Dunhill, the sponsors of this tournament.

Prizes were also awarded to regular bridge players who participated for all the 17 weeks of the tournament. A lucky draw was held for those present at the prize distribution.

Prizes were distributed by Ms Jana Thomas & Joseph Mathew on behalf of Dunhill. The tournament was directed by R.R. Sapre. Above: all the winners with tournament officials

'Some players go unpunished for swearing'

TORONTO, Feb 3. (Reuters): Admiring he is to blame for his expulsion from the Australian Open, John McEnroe said some foreign-speaking tennis players get away with swearing on court because they don't do it in English.

Two weeks ago, McEnroe earned his first tournament ejection and became the first player in 22 years to get kicked out of a Grand Slam event. After a warning for intimidating a lineswoman and a point penalty for racket abuse, McEnroe was ousted from his fourth-round match against Sweden's Mikael Pernfors for uttering a four-letter word at the match supervisor.

The 30-year-old New Yorker was fined \$5,000 for swearing, \$300 for racket abuse and \$1,000 for the default. Under new Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) rules any player who utters \$7,500 in fines within 12 months is banned from the next grand slam event. McEnroe's tally so far is \$6,500, but he is considering appealing.

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